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BIG COMICS

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BIG SPIRITS COMICS

岩明均（いわあきひとし）

CHAPTERS

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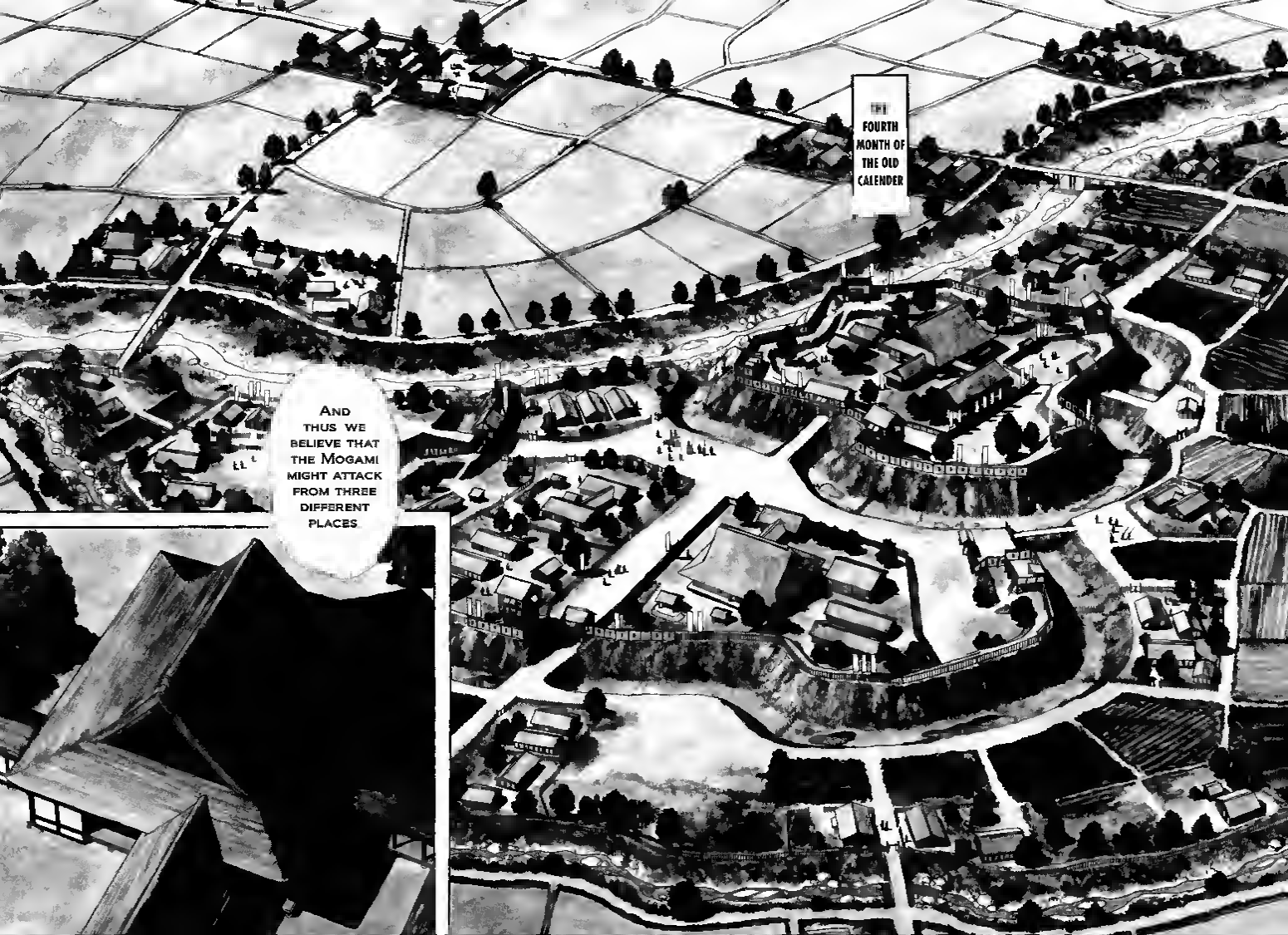
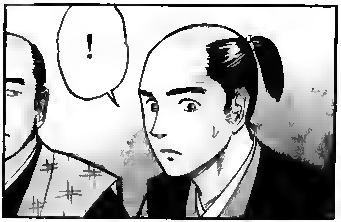
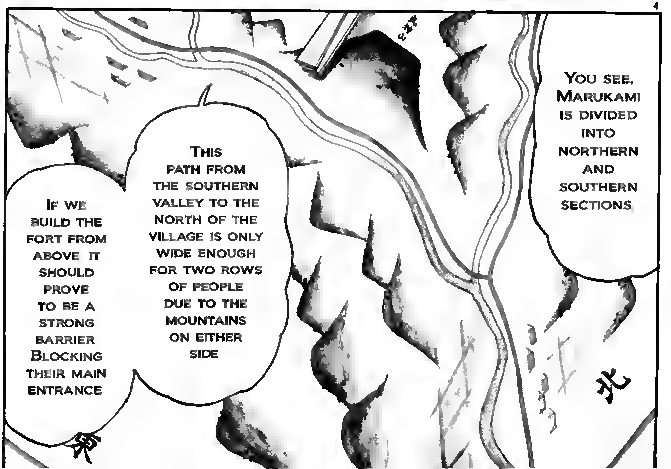
Chapter 1:
MAGPIE'S BANNER
The Project Scanations


FOURTH MONTH OF THE OLD CALENDER
AND THUS WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOGAMI MIGHT ATTACK FROM THREE DIFFERENT PLACES

OF THEM THE VILLAGE MARUKAMI IS THE MOST LIKELY AND WE SHOULD HURRY TO SECURE IT


!

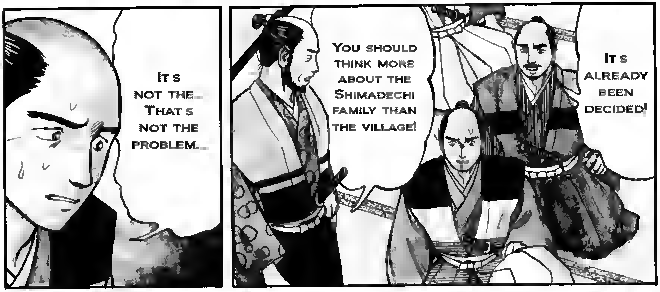
SO WE CAN USE IT AS A STRONG-HOLD

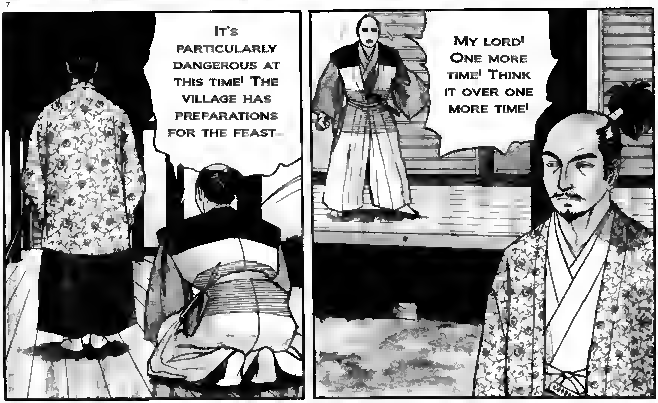

YOU SEE, MARUKAMI IS DIVIDED INTO NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SECTIONS
THIS PATH FROM THE SOUTHERN VALLEY TO THE NORTH OF THE VILLAGE IS ONLY WIDE ENOUGH FOR TWO ROWS OF PEOPLE DUE TO THE MOUNTAINS ON EITHER SIDE
IF WE BUILD THE FORT FROM ABOVE IT SHOULD PROVE TO BE A STRONG BARRIER BLOCKING THEIR MAIN ENTRANCE
北

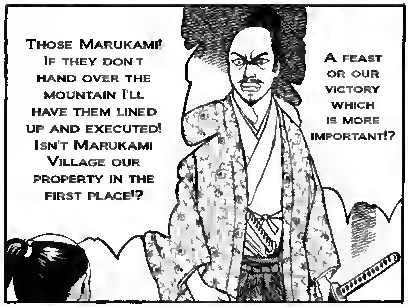
"The Seven Peaks" in the east as the name suggests, is split into several peaks. The valley is hard to penetrate, and the terrain is rough. Moreover it gives them poor visibility and a hard time getting a view of the mountains as a whole.
Aha. So which is more appropriate? The western or the eastern mountain?
The west mountain Marukami Mountain is shaped like a tree stump with a wide peak and can hold a large army. Also because there is a small lake on the other side of the mountain they would have no problem finding drinking water.
One can say that it is difficult to attack with a difficult defense.
So conversely its appearance alone is enough to intimidate the Mogami.
In addition the view is excellent. You can see all the way past the end of the southern valley far into Mogami territory.

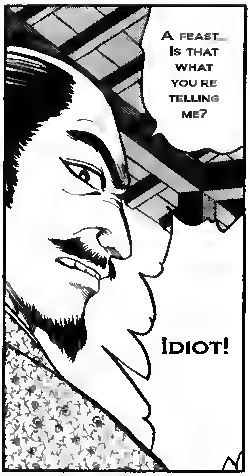
YES!
.....
MOTO-NOBU AND TADA-YORI, TAKE CARE OF THE CON-STRUC-TION!
THEN IT IS DECIDED! WE WILL BUILD OUR FORTRESS AT MARU-KAMI MOUNTAIN!
WHAT IS IT, TADA-YORI?
W-WAIT!
HURRY!
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU TO TRAVEL TO MARUKAMI IF WE USE PEOPLE FROM THE AREA IT SHOULD GO WELL.
MARUKAMI MOUNTAIN IS.. WELL.. A SPECIAL MOUNTAIN. IT HAS BEEN PROTECTED FOR GENERATIONS. OVER 600 YEARS BACK... IF WE MAKE OUR STRONG-HOLD IN THERE WE WILL SURELY FACE A STRONG RESISTANCE FROM POPULATION.

W-WAIT! MASTER!
HEY! MINAMI-MARU-DONO!

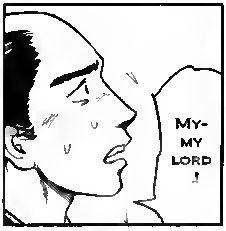

IT'S NOT THE... THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM...
YOU SHOULD THINK MORE ABOUT THE SHIMADECHI FAMILY THAN THE VILLAGE!
IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED!


IT'S PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS AT THIS TIME! THE VILLAGE HAS PREPARATIONS FOR THE FEAST...
MY LORD! ONE MORE TIME! THINK IT OVER ONE MORE TIME!


Those Marukami! If they don't hand over the mountain I'll have them lined up and executed! Isn't Marukami Village our property in the first place!?
A feast or our victory which is more important!?


A feast... Is that what you're telling me?
Idiot!

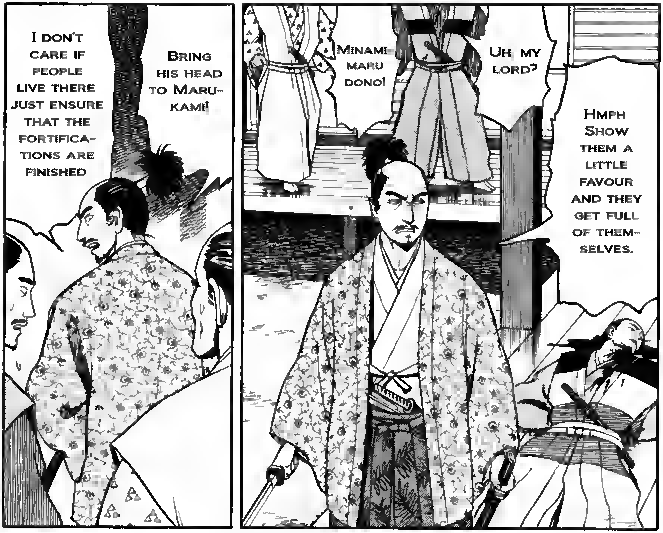
Lord... Have you.. Marukami belongs to the family priest and the Marukami populace...

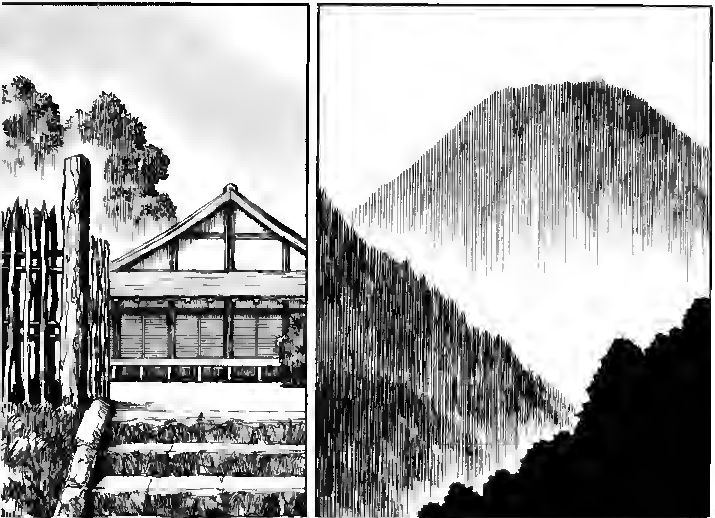

My-my lord!

Minamimaru Tadayori! Who do you serve!? Me or Marukami Masayori!?

Please reconsider your plans...
For your own sake..
Go away! Do not show your face here again!

AGH


I DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE LIVE THERE JUST ENSURE THAT THE FORTIFICATIONS ARE FINISHED
BRING HIS HEAD TO MARUKAME!
MINAMI MARU DONO!
UH, MY LORD?
HMPH SHOW THEM A LITTLE FAVOUR AND THEY GET FULL OF THEMSELVES.



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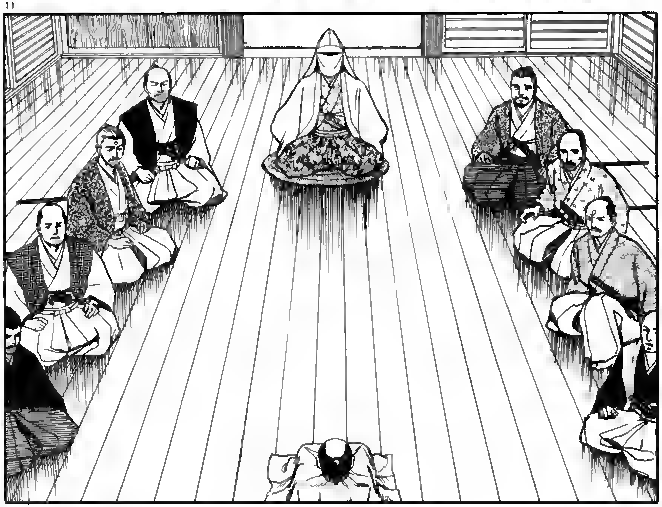

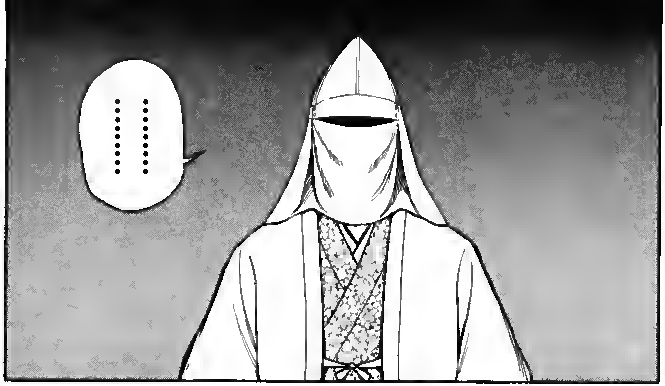
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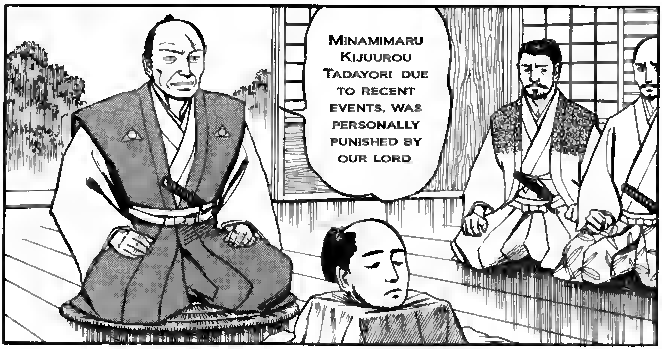
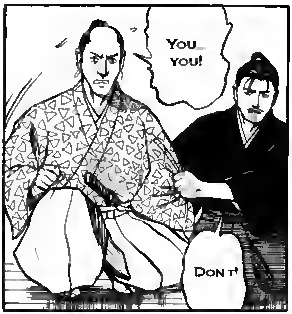
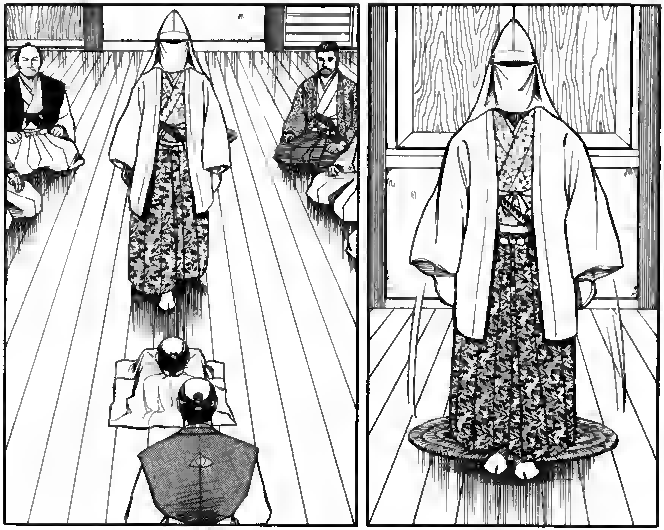

Minamimaru Kijuurou Tadayori due to recent events, was personally punished by our lord

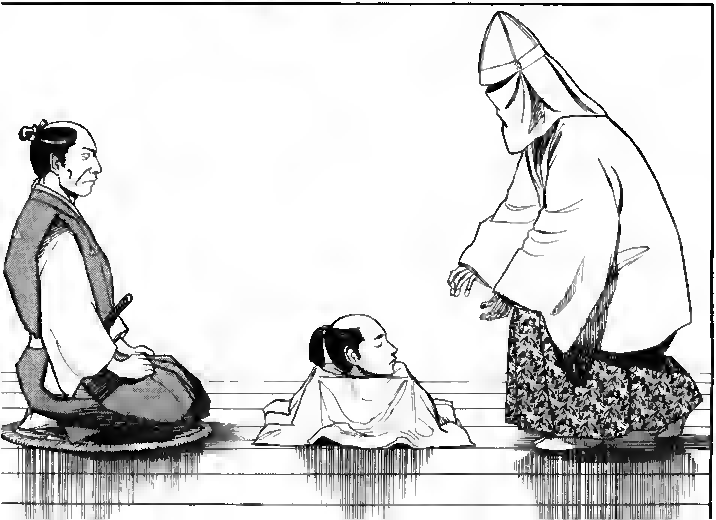
12


You... you!
Don't

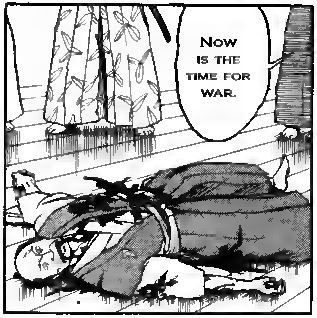
The Bastard's head was sent to his home village out of our Lords simple kindness

BE QUIET!
OUR LORD WANTED YOU HERE IN THE VILLAGE TO UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT OUR CONSTRUCTION. MASAYORI-DONO IF YOU REFUSE THE VILLAGE WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS KIJIRO
.....
13





!!
Ma Marukami-dono Give me your answer!
Looks like you had a bad master...
Kijuurou
What...
We Refuse



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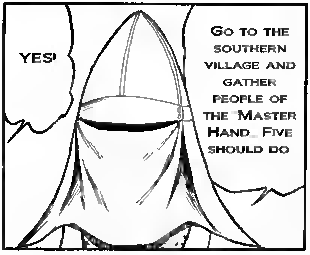
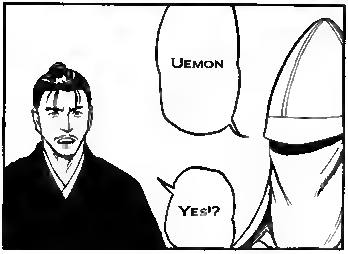
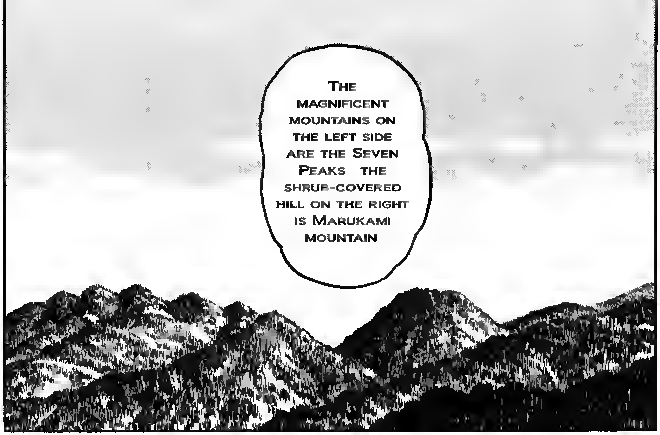




*T/L NOTE: MASTER HAND SOUNDS SO CORNY !PAUL

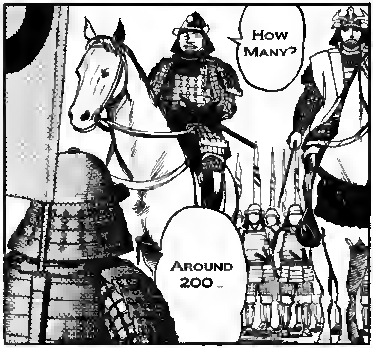
But Lord, you've already
And five from the northern village as well... no. I will join them. Four will be enough
For reinforcements?
And then send a messenger to the Mogami
It doesn't matter. I owe it to Kijiro
.....
No... Let them know that we will soon defeat Shimadera Michiyasu and they may split his territory as they wish...
But this village is absolutely off-limits...

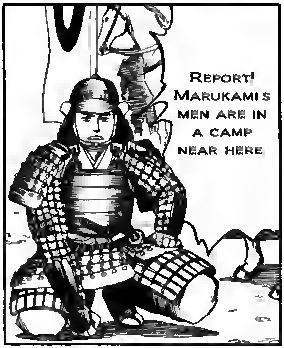
OVER THERE


The magnificent mountains on the left side are the Seven Peaks the shrub-covered hill on the right is Marukami mountain

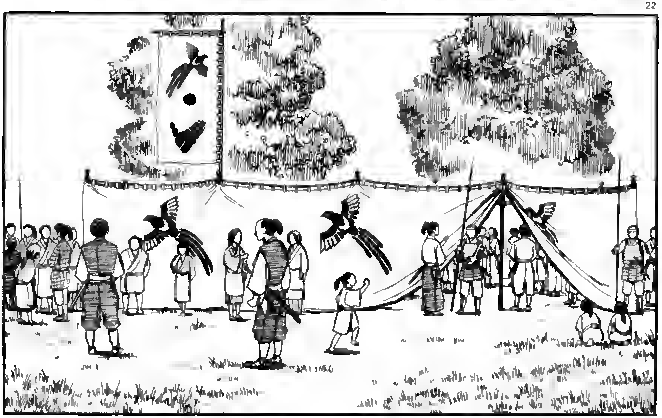
I see it's truly an impressive-looking mountain

21


How many?
Around 200.

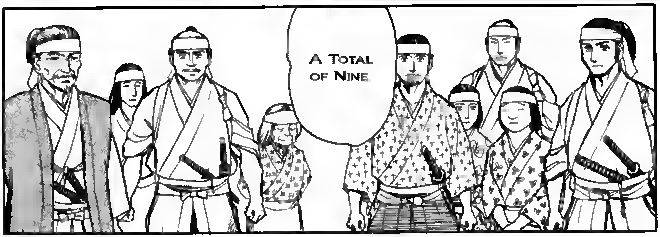

Report! Marukami's men are in a camp near here.

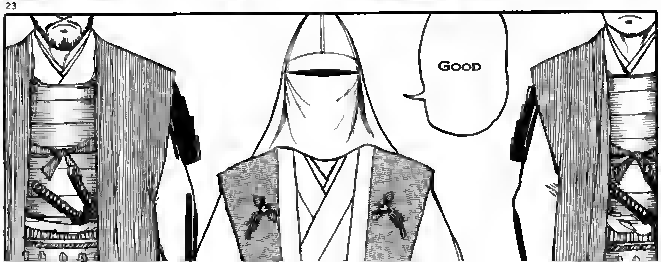
That's not even one tenth of ours!
Ha-ha-ha-ha!
Pfft
Heh. Fools
Is it really a camp? They don't intend to surrender?
No! It doesn't look like they're going to give up
But there are women children and old people and they bear no armour

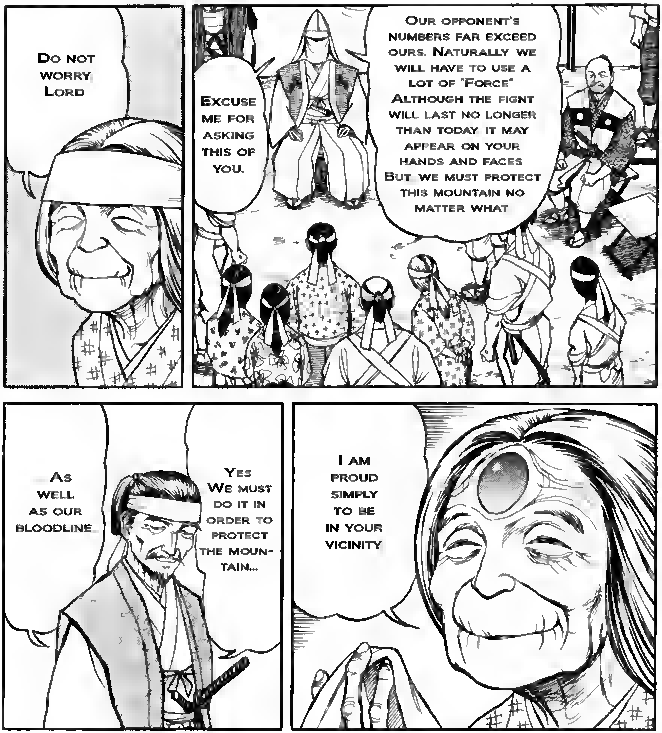


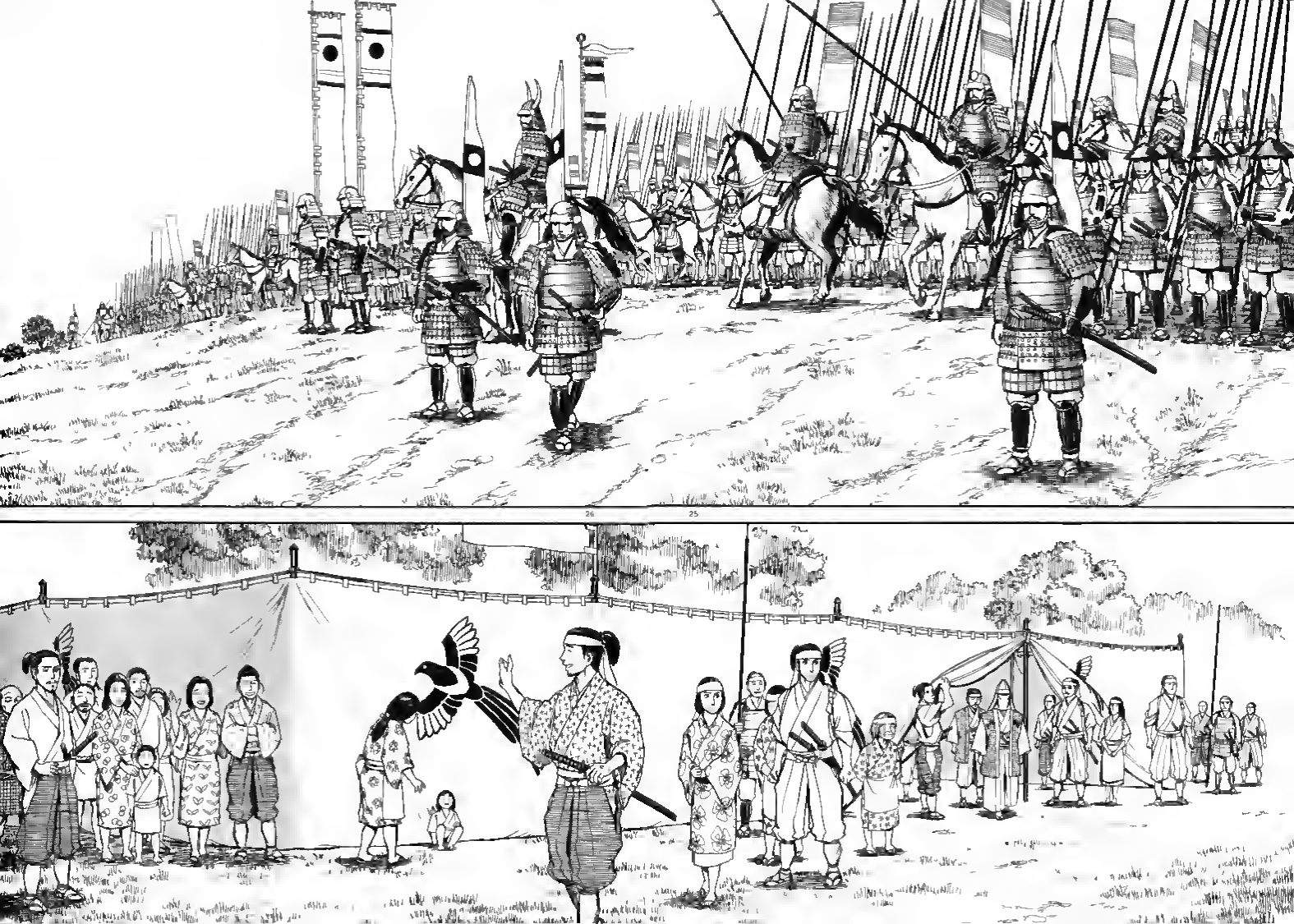
From the north there is Kitamaru Masamitu-dono Higashimaru Yorihisa-dono, Kume and Yoshi.

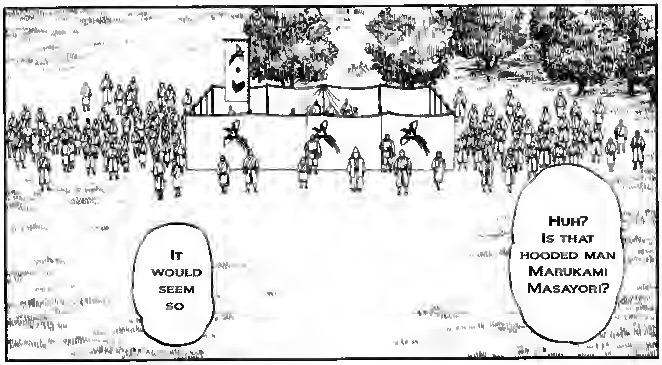
Nishimaru Shinnosuke from the southern village as well as Yogoro Jinbee Kane and Mitsu.

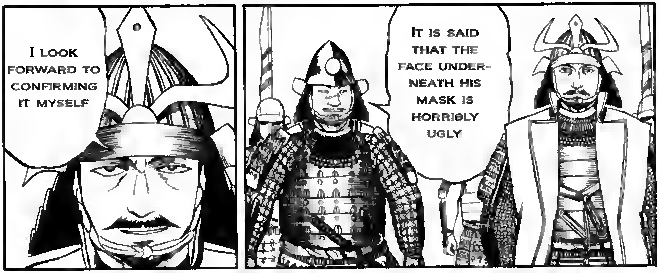

A total of nine

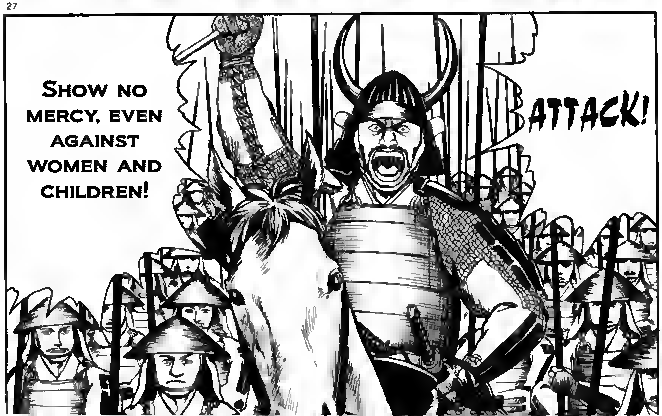

Good

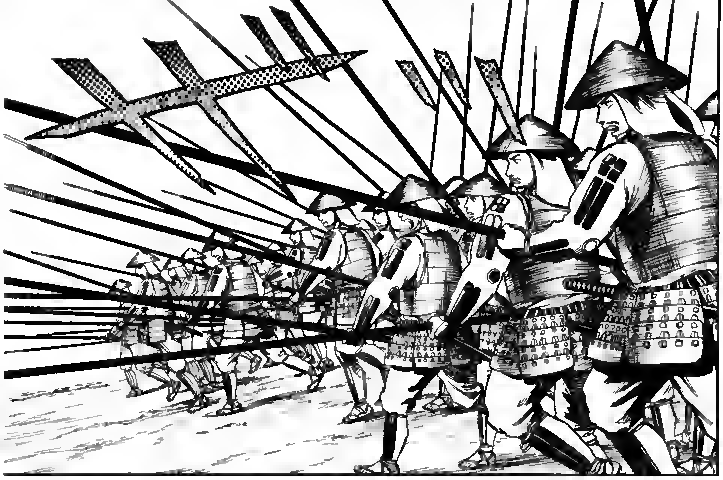

Do not worry Lord
Excuse me for asking this of you.
Our opponent's numbers far exceed ours. Naturally we will have to use a lot of "Force" Although the fight will last no longer than today it may appear on your hands and faces But we must protect this mountain no matter what
As well as our bloodline
Yes We must do it in order to protect the mountain...
I am proud simply to be in your vicinity
They're Here!
Yes...!

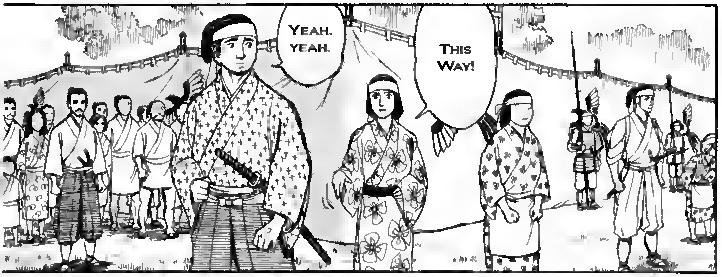


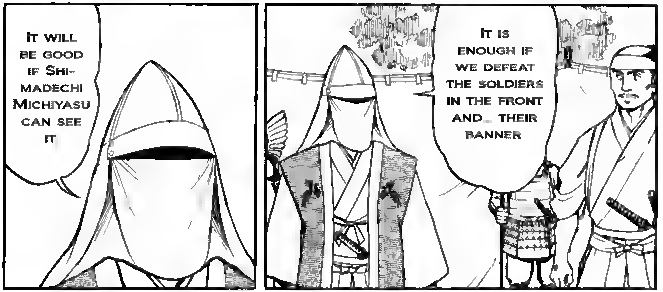

Huh? Is that hooded man Marukami Masayori?
It would seem so


I look forward to confirming it myself
It is said that the face underneath his mask is horribly ugly


Show no mercy, even against women and children!
ATTACK!

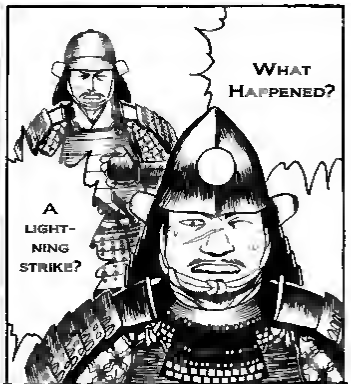



YEAH. YEAH.
THIS WAY!


IT WILL BE GOOD IF SHI-MADECHI MICHIYASU CAN SEE IT
IT IS ENOUGH IF WE DEFEAT THE SOLDIERS IN THE FRONT AND... THEIR BANNER

EXIT

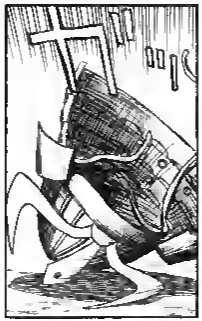
WHAT THE- WHAT'S GOING ON!?


WHAT HAPPENED?
A LIGHT-NING STRIKE?

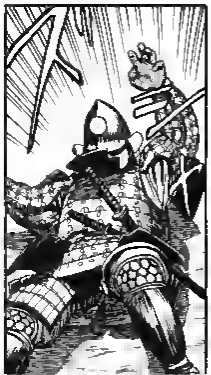
WAAH!

What?

.....

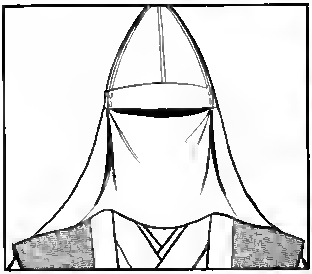


Ah!

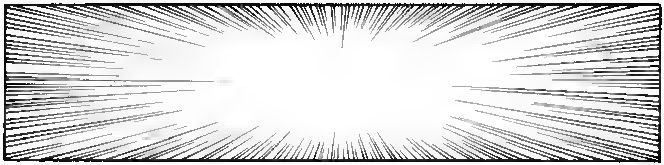


!!

What the hell is going on...



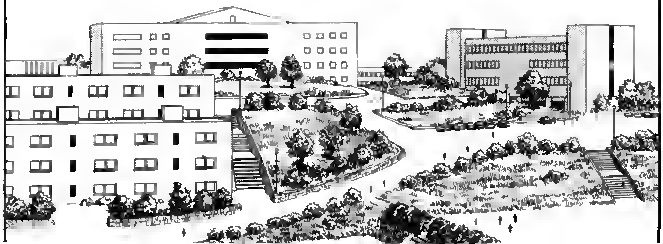
WAIT!

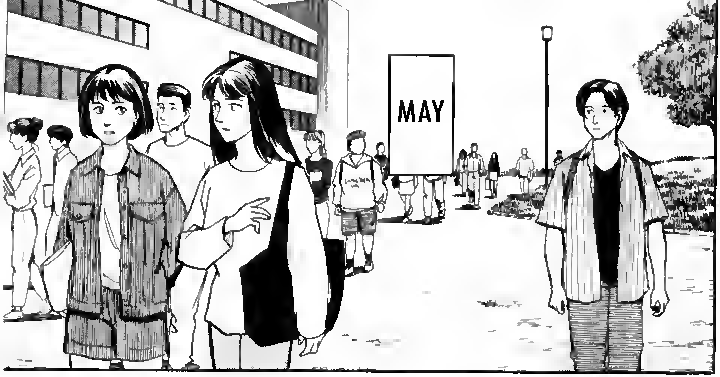


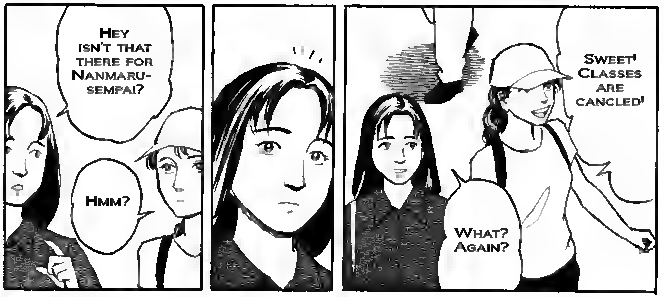
37

AHHH!
GAH!
RUN AWAY!
WAH!
38
SOON... SOME DAY...
YEARS FROM NOW... DECADES...
I WILL NOT LET ANYONE TRESPASS ON OUR HOLY LAND!

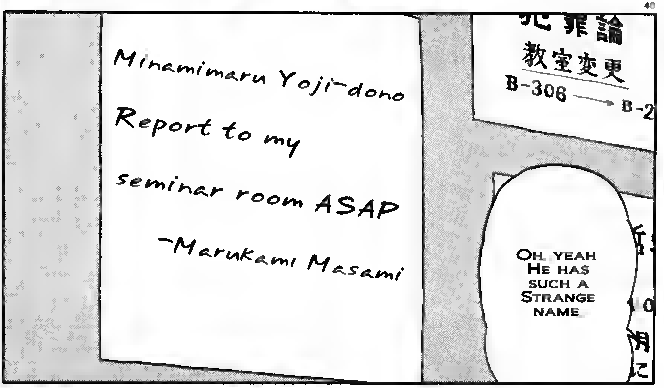
ONE DAY . . . .





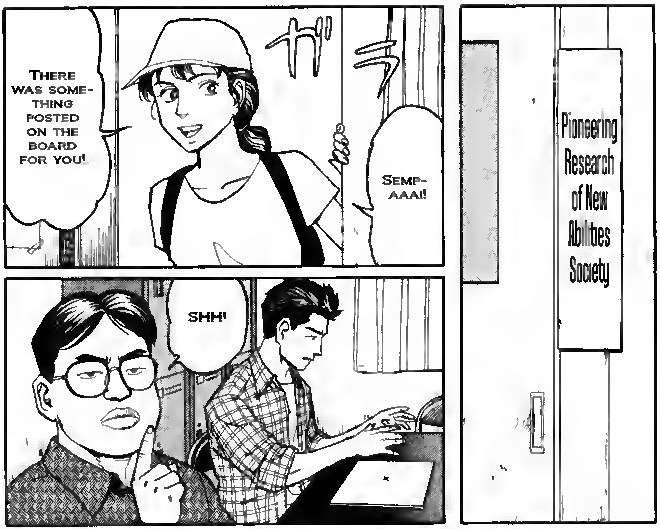


40

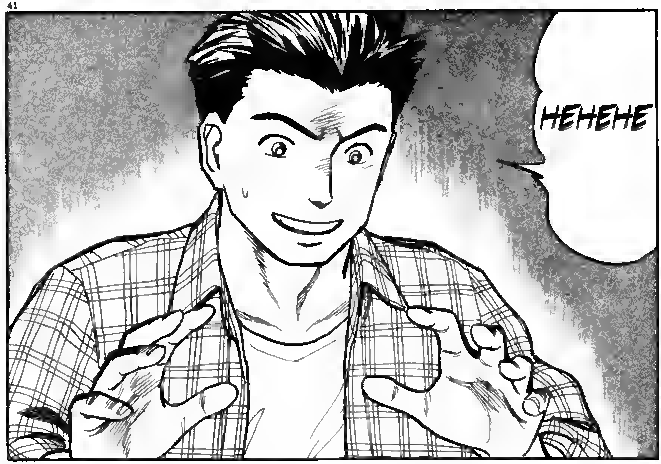


41

T/N NOTE: MINAMIMARU'S FRIENDS CALL HIM MANMARU WITH THE 'MAN' IN MATSUKANE. THE KANJI FOR 'MINAMI' CAN ALSO BE PRONOUNCED 'MAN' BUT THE MATSUKANE MAKES IT SEEM LIKE IT'S A PUN ON 'MAN' (MAT). SO THEY'RE CALLING HIM 'MARTSIT-MARU'. THE PUN DOESN'T QUITE TRANSLATE OVER INTO ENGLISH, SO I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO HERE

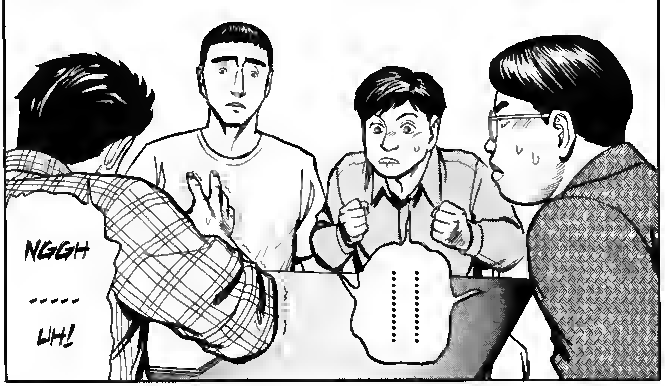

Pioneering Research of New Abilities Society
SEMP-AAAI!
THERE WAS SOMETHING POSTED ON THE BOARD FOR YOU!
SHH!

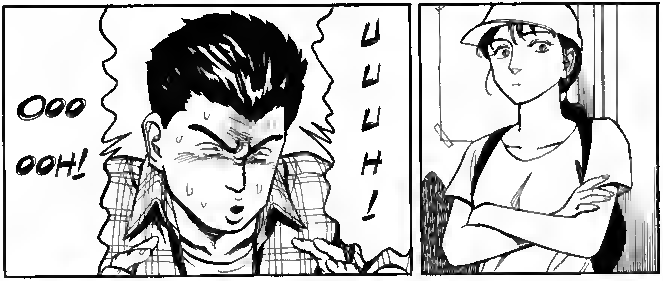
41


HEHEHE

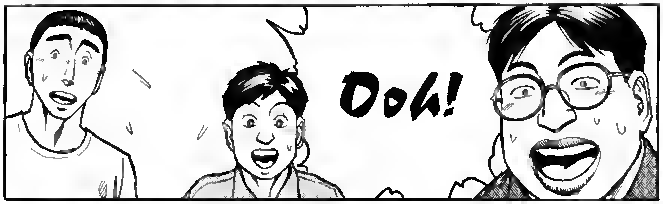
CHAPTER 1

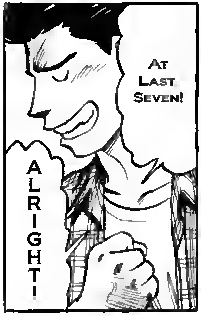
ESPER

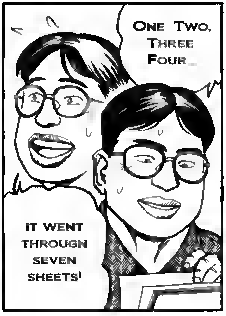

NGGH
.....
UH!
.....


OOO
OOH!
UUUH!

AAAAH!!


Ooh!


At Last Seven!
ALRIGHT!


One Two, Three Four...
It went through seven sheets!

Count how many there are now
Huff
Huff...
Huff...
Okay!

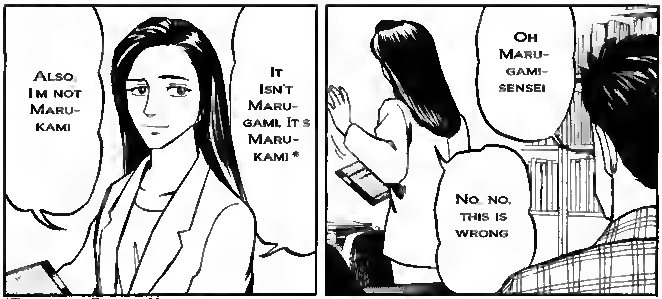
.....
HURRAY!
You did it Chief It's a new record!
Hey Aki look it's a real hole! It went through the seven pieces of paper! Unbelievable, right?
SWEET!
I was about to give up because I wasn't making progress, but I did it!
Can anyone else do something like this?
Aki-san this is fantastic! It's ESP!
...congratulations...
4
Haha, you've lost interest?
Yeah, it's true... It's ESP and it's amazing and all, but...

.....
.....
It's just that you're doing this all the time
Hehe A little
What Cheif you haven't noticed? It's been up there for... around ten days I believe it was Marukami-sensei...
A mess-age? For Me?
There was a message for you on the board.
Oh! By the way Nan-maru-sempai!
5
Ooh!
...That he heard rumors of my ESP and wants to investigate?
Could it be...
Marukami? What could it be? I can't have done anything, Im not even in any of his classes

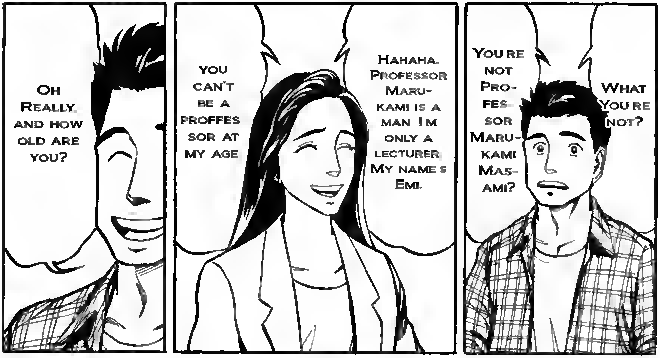
Ah Nanmaru-san, are we celebrating the record on the way home today?
Well, I guess I'll go
Come on! It'll be fun!
Well, I
want to come, Aki?
Oh good idea.
Oh Yeah, there was another thing I wanted to say What about Asano-san...
Asano?
.....
Marukami
Masaharu

That's one thing, but what if he's had an accident? It's such a pain when he disappears like this
But he is the type that gets caught up in research perhaps he got stuck on the road.
It's strange that he isn't back yet.
If something happens then you can pay instead sensei 400 000 Yen
One third? Oh really?
That model is ready for only one third the cost
7
It has nothing to do with the model. And I know nothing about this 400 000 yen.
Liar!
Don't speak such nonsense!
What!?
But haven't you been involved in the research sensei?

Excuse me..
Yeah?
Ah hello
I'm Minami-maru Yoji.
Minami-maru..
Wait a minute
Take a seat
Oh yes! Minami-maru-kun?
...Where's the other one..
.....

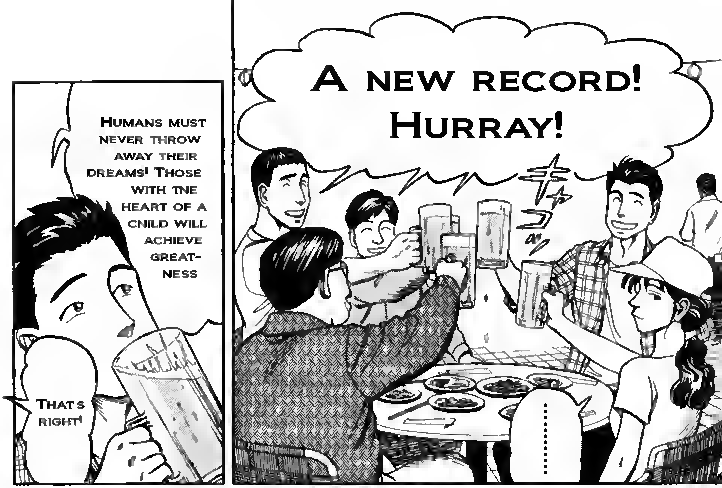


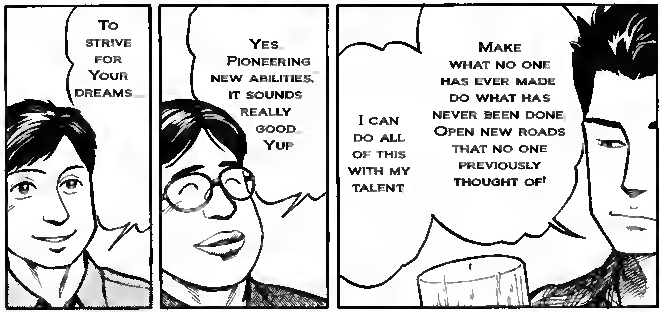
*They have Similar Kanji

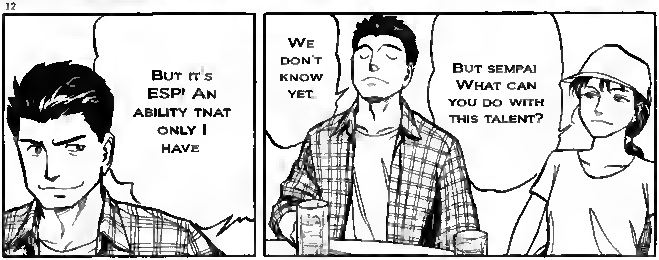

Oh Really, and how old are you?
you can't be a proffes sor at my age
Hahaha. Professor Maru-kami is a man Im only a lecturer. My name s Emi.
You're not Pro-fes-sor Maru-kami Mas-ami?
What You're not?

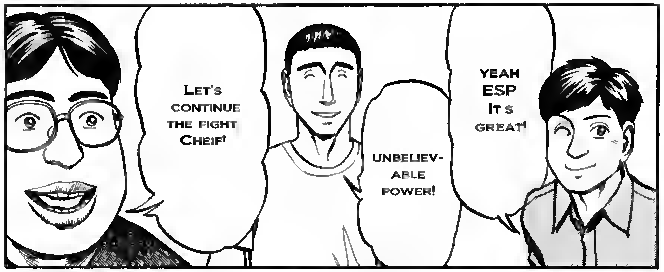
Nah no close relatives at least
Minami-maru-kun you have relatives in that area?
—Maru-kami-sensei is currently in the North-east with research, but..
Clan...!?
Okay then Do you know of any stories or anything passed down through your clan? Anything at all, ?
Huh? So sdon?
Hmm Well that s all
Not really I wouldn't even call us a clan really...

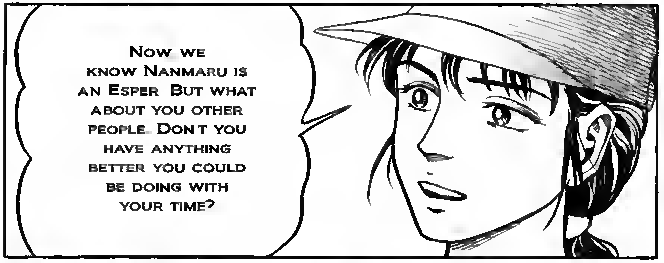
What is he a professor of?
By the way Marukami-san..
History and Folklore Why?
Sorry for making you come here
I apologize. we can't do the rest without Marukami-sensei
It's Okay.
I apologize for this.
Thank you very much
Oh.. Nothing then..
About the 400,000 yen...
Stop nagging! I know nothing about this!
Oh... it wasn't about my ESP

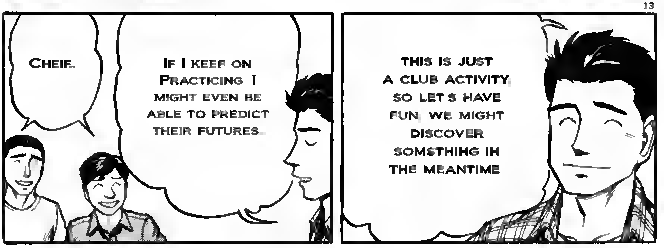

A new record! Hurray!
Humans must never throw away their dreams! Those with the heart of a child will achieve greatness
That's right!


To strive for your dreams...
Yes. Pioneering new abilities, it sounds really good. Yup
I can do all of this with my talent
Make what no one has ever made do what has never been done. Open new roads that no one previously thought of!


But it's ESP! An ability that only I have
We don't know yet.
But Sempai What can you do with this talent?


LET'S CONTINUE THE FIGHT CHEIF!
UNBELIEV-ABLE POWER!
YEAH ESP IT'S GREAT!

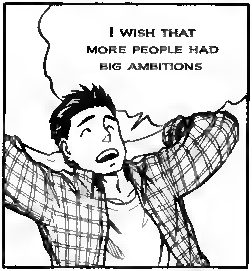

NOW WE KNOW NANMARU IS AN ESPER. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU OTHER PEOPLE. DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER YOU COULD BE DOING WITH YOUR TIME?

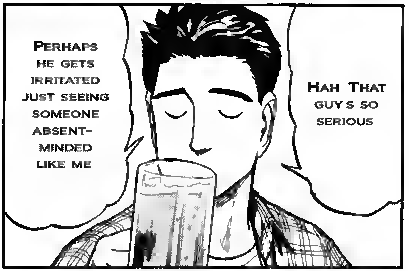

CHEIF.
IF I KEEP ON PRACTICING I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO PREDICT THEIR FUTURES.
THIS IS JUST A CLUB ACTIVITY. SO LET'S HAVE FUN. WE MIGHT DISCOVER SOMETHING IN THE MEANTIME

Shouldn't you be thinking of a job?
Nanmaru-sempai, you're going into your fourth year, aren't you?
Have fun
I have a report due tomorrow so I have to leave
Uh? When did Aki leave...?
Na Nanmaru-san...
He's been saying a lot of stuff about you recently I think he may be thinking of leaving the club
Oh yes
By the way Imamura, you wanted something regarding Asano?

But he seems to be very angry at you lately...
No

Have I done something?
Damn...


I wish that more people had big ambitions

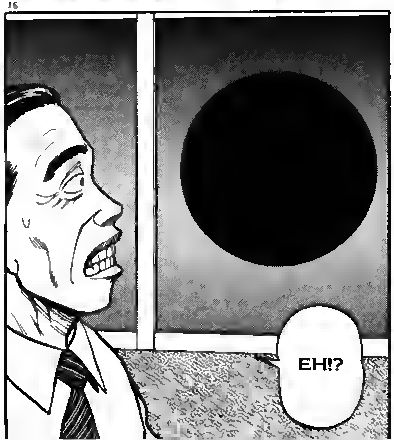

Perhaps he gets irritated just seeing someone absent-minded like me
Hah That guy's so serious

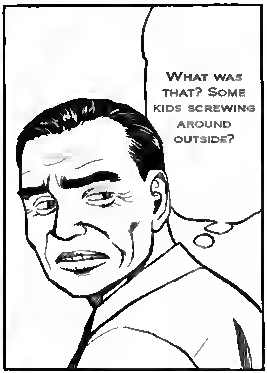
15

Peace-ful...

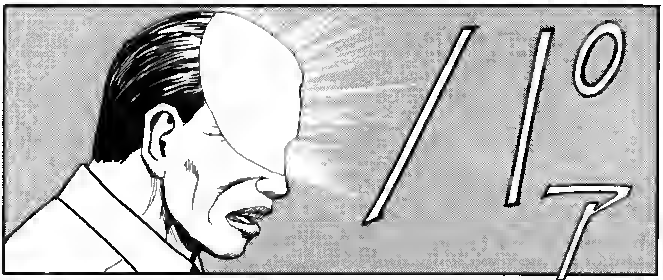
Yes, right Considering we live in a peaceful time and everything.

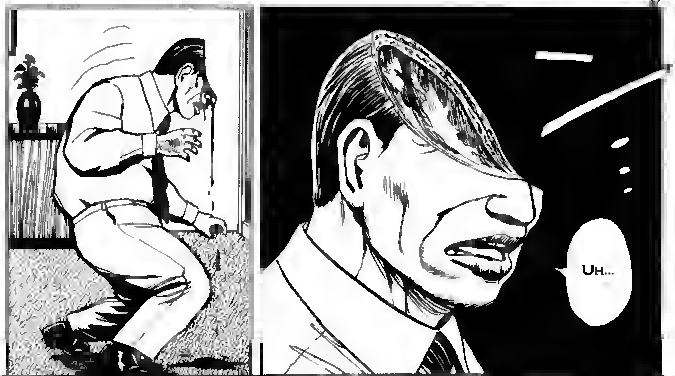
* Refers to the Prefecture ' the district ' the city

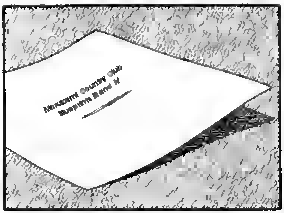




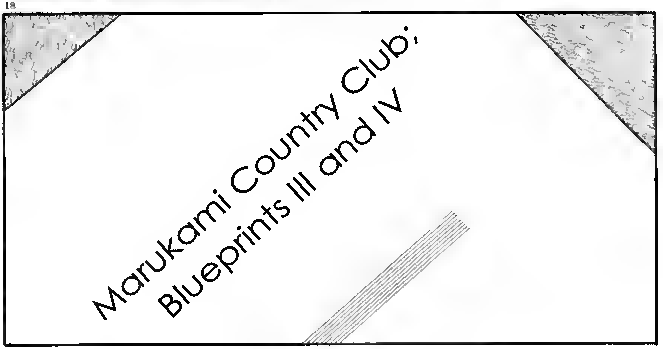
WHAT... WHAT IS THIS? It's So STRANGE...
ヒュウウ...


パア


UH...

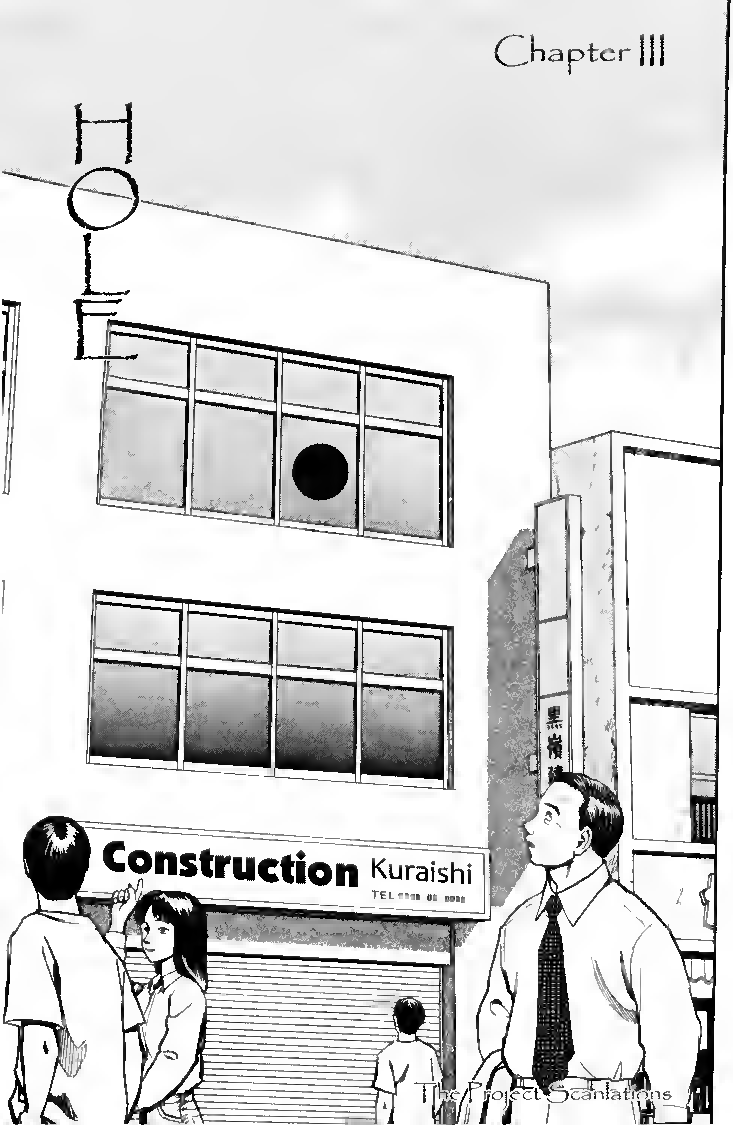

Marukami Country Club
Blueprints Book IV

18


Marukami Country Club:
Blueprints III and IV

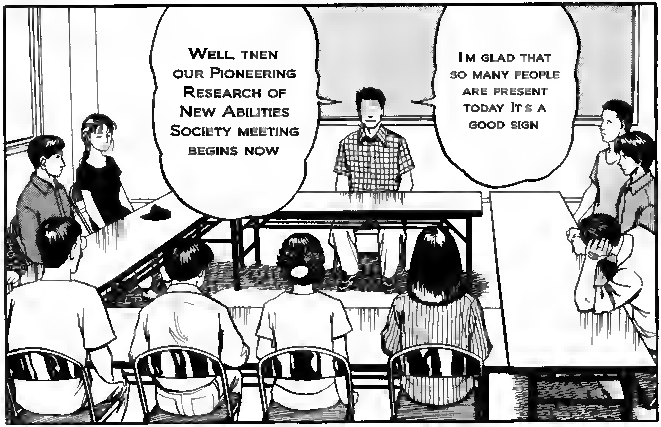
Chapter III

HOLE

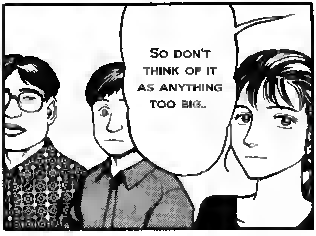


The Project Scanlations

Okay first of all...
May


Well, then our Pioneering Research of New Abilities Society meeting begins now
Im glad that so many people are present today It's a good sign

2


So don't think of it as anything too big..

Although this is actually just a club it seems more like a research society.
First on the agenda, we must determine the new chairman..

Would you like to take over?

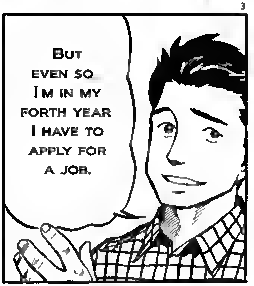
How about you, Asano-kun?
Someone in third year..

You should do it until you're done school, Nanmaru-san. You are our only Esper after all.
Haha

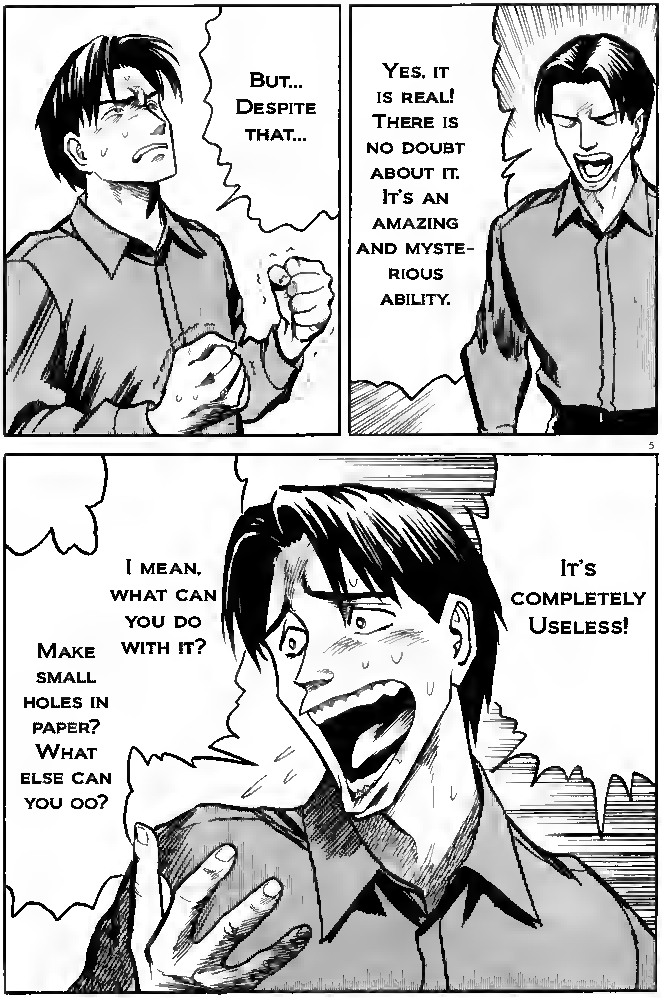
Why me?
You're sensible and I can see you being a good leader...

3

We're a society for pioneering research of new abilities right? Why doesn't this matter for employment?
Hehe. well isn't this weird
Exactly

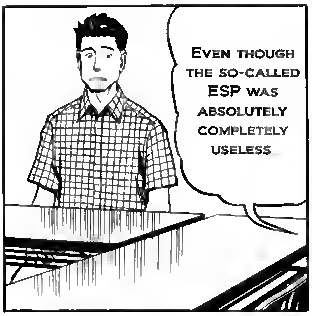

But even so I'm in my forth year I have to apply for a job.

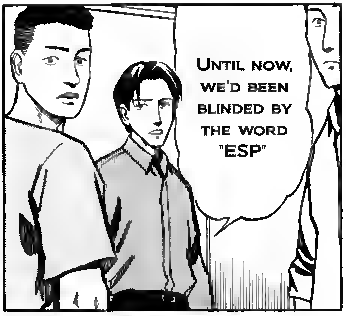
But all we really do..
Is your trick cheif. It's more like a club for magic
We meet to carefreely and magnanimously search for mankind's new potential.
Get real. Our society doesn't meet for boring real life stuff like that
That's why we always fall into your weird pace!
And there it is!
It isn't a trick! My ESP is real!
Huh?

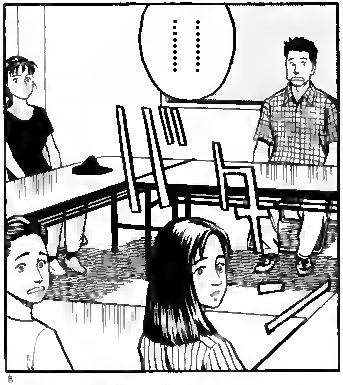

But... Despite that...
Yes, it is real! There is no doubt about it. It's an amazing and mysterious ability.
5
Make small holes in paper? What else can you do?
I mean, what can you do with it?
It's completely Useless!

Yeah, you can make holes
What difference does it make?
Gaaah, stop!
And stuff.
Well, it also goes through thin plastic
But it's much faster to use one of these!
WAH
Your ESP doesn't have the slightest practical usefulness! It is much faster to do by hand!

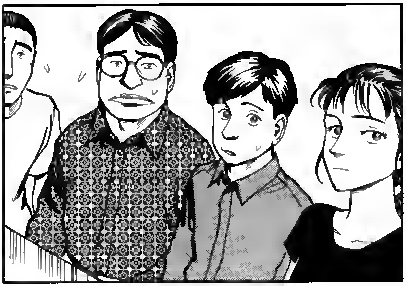
Calm down. We shouldn't be taking this so seriously
What I mean is that I want to get prepared for the real world. That's the reason I'm at university and why I'm in this club.
What we should really do is discuss this.
It would be nice if we did something useful...
Huh?
Were leaving.
I guess I was wrong.
No. The time I spent here was completely wasted
Now you've gone too far
There's absolutely no clear point to this gathering

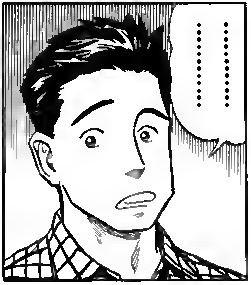

Even though the so-called ESP was absolutely completely useless

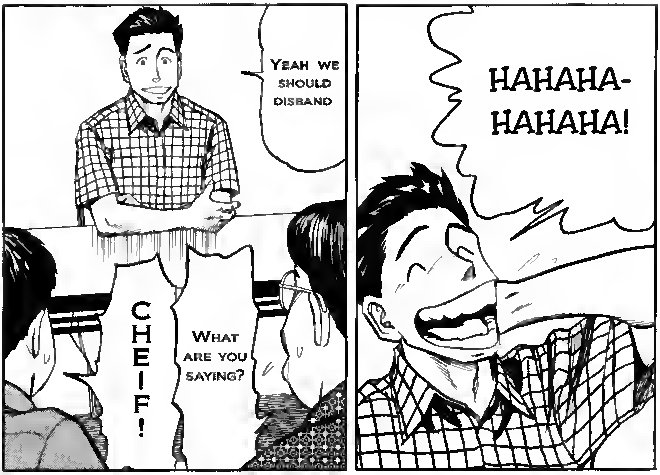

Until now, we'd been blinded by the word "ESP"


……

And fuck the "new abilities"
See ya!
Starting tomorrow we're going to study English instead!



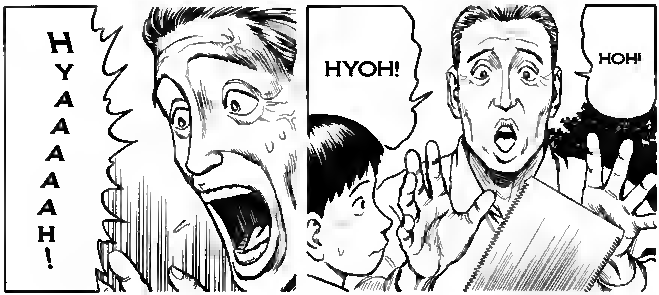

……


YEAH WE SHOULD DISBAND
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
CHEIF!
HAHAHA-HAHAHA!

DAMN

Because of this power
Something about me was different from other people That I was special
Until now I though that somehow

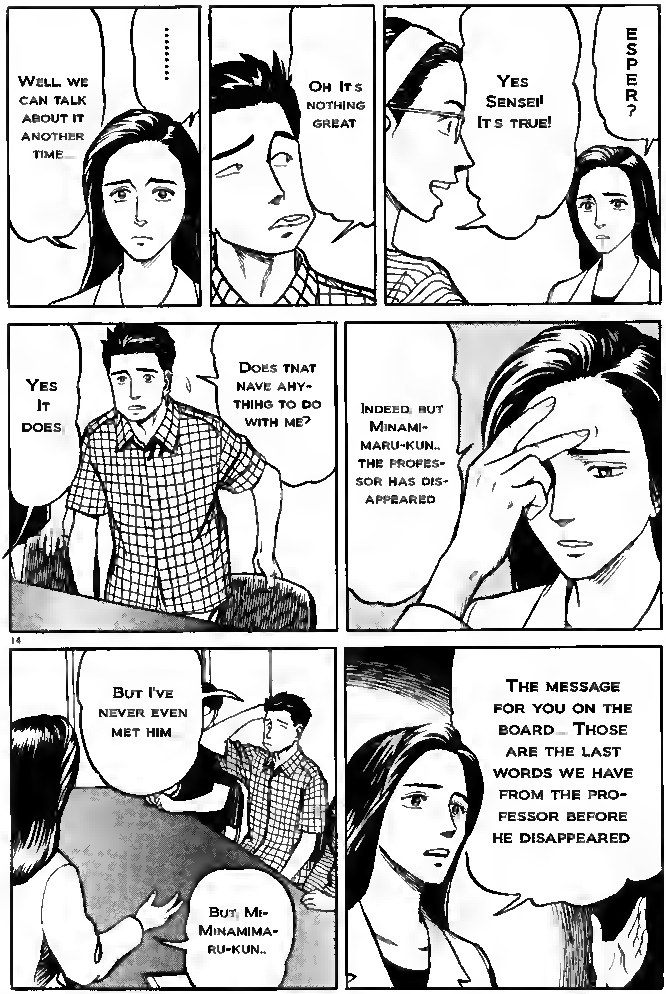
Let me show you a trick Hold this
Hey there Yoji
My grandfather told me about my ability

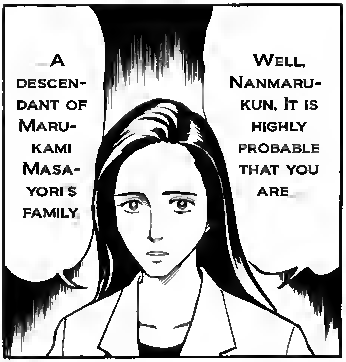

HYAAAAAH!
HYOH!
HOH!

OHH! A HOLE!
!
ハウィーン
THIS IS AN ART THAT ONLY CERTIAIN SELECTED PEOPLE CAN DO
MAYBE YOU CAN
YOUR DAD TRIED BUT
IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS GRANDPA
IF YOU COULD DO IT

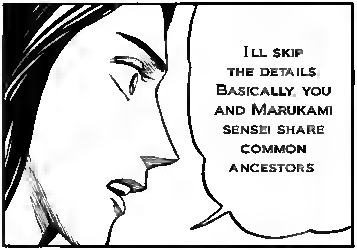
Somehow I feel extremely depressed all of a sudden
Work huh
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
Who does Asano think he is anyway. He didn't need to go so far!
12
Well, when I was in Marukami's office Tagaya said...
Ahh Minamima-ru-kun! I've been looking for you.

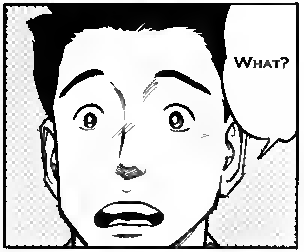
What's with this guy Is he in preschool or something?
Nothing! Hmph.
What's wrong?
Ahh Minami-maru-kun. Excuse us for being so sudden.
13
The Esper?
You're Minami-maru-san?

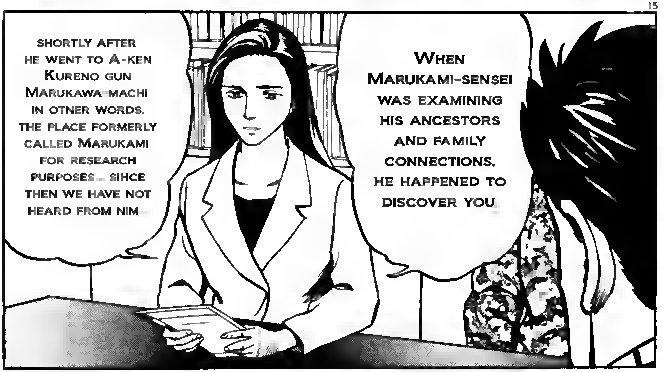

Well we can talk about it another time
.....
Oh It's nothing great
ESPER?
Yes Sensei! It's true!
Yes It does
Does tnat nave ahy-thing to do with me?
Indeed, but Minami-maru-kun.. the profes-sor has dis-appeared
But I've never even met him
But Mi-Minamima-ru-kun..
The message for you on the board... Those are the last words we have from the pro-fessor before he disappeared

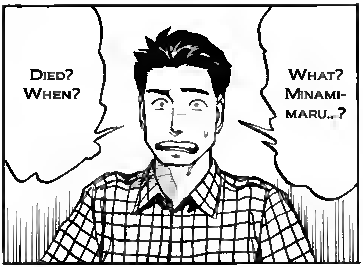

A descendant of Marukami Masayori's family
Well, Nanmaru-kun. It is highly probable that you are

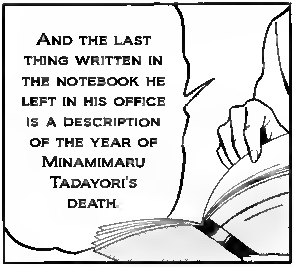
Everyone kept calling me that so it kinda stuck
Just call me Nanmaru It's hard to say otherwise


I'll skip the details. Basically, you and Marukami sensei share common ancestors

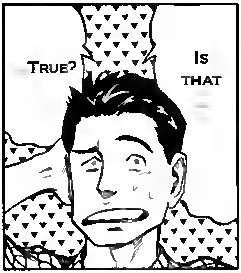

What?

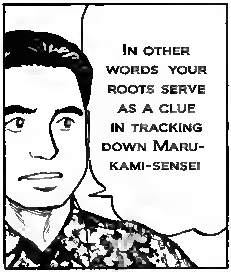

shortly after he went to A-ken Kureno gun Marukawa-machi in otner words, the place formerly called Marukami for research purposes. sihce then we have not heard from nim
When Marukami-sensei was examining his ancestors and family connections, he happened to discover you

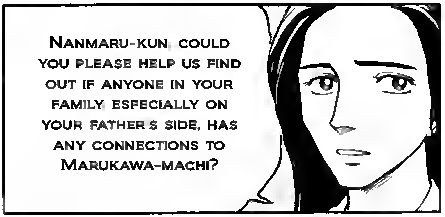

Died? When?
What? Minami-maru..?


And the last thing written in the notebook he left in his office is a description of the year of Minamimaru Tadayori's death.

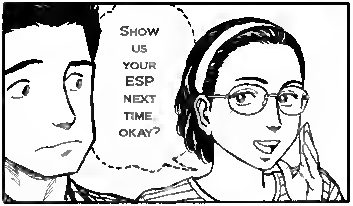
And in the meantime we may hear something from the police.


True?
Is that


In other words your roots serve as a clue in tracking down Maru-kami-sensei!

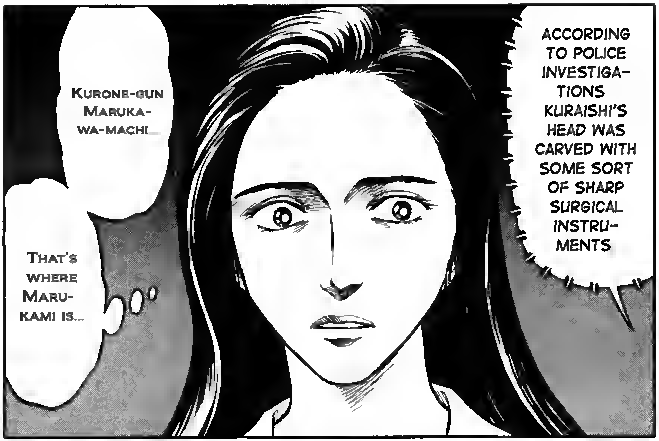

Nanmaru-kun, could you please help us find out if anyone in your family, especially on your father's side, has any connections to Marukawa-machi?

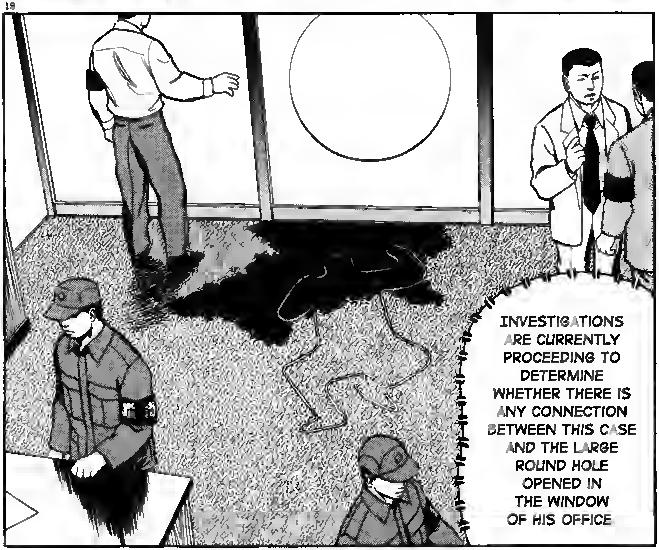
don't speak such rubbish!


Show us your ESP next time, okay?

Uh... yeah I'll try but...

ARGH!
I'M AN ESPER BUT MY ESP IS TOTALLY USELESS...
SIGH AND ON TOP OF THAT I NEED TO THINK OF FINDING A JOB...
SOMEHOW IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE BECOME INVOLVED WITH SOME VERY WEIRD PEOPLE
17
WHAT!?
AND AS FOR THE REPORT OF A MAN FOUND DEAD IN HIS OFFICE THE MURDER VICTIM WAS KURAISHI TOSHIO-SAN, 51, FROM KURONEN-GUN MARUKAWA-MACHI...


ACCORDING TO POLICE INVESTIGATIONS KURAISHI'S HEAD WAS CARVED WITH SOME SORT OF SHARP SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS
KURONE-GUN MARUKAWA-MACHI...
THAT'S WHERE MARUKAMI IS...

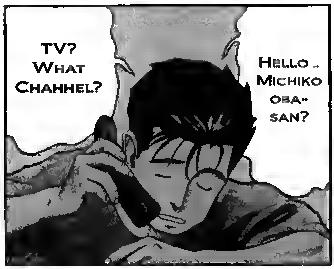

INVESTIGATIONS ARE CURRENTLY PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS CASE AND THE LARGE ROUND HOLE OPENED IN THE WINDOW OF HIS OFFICE

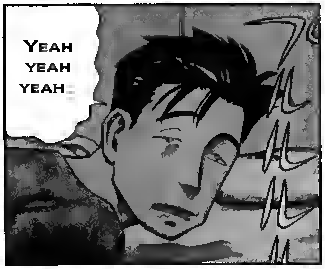
Chapter IV

400,000 YEN MODEL

The Project Secretions

ZO

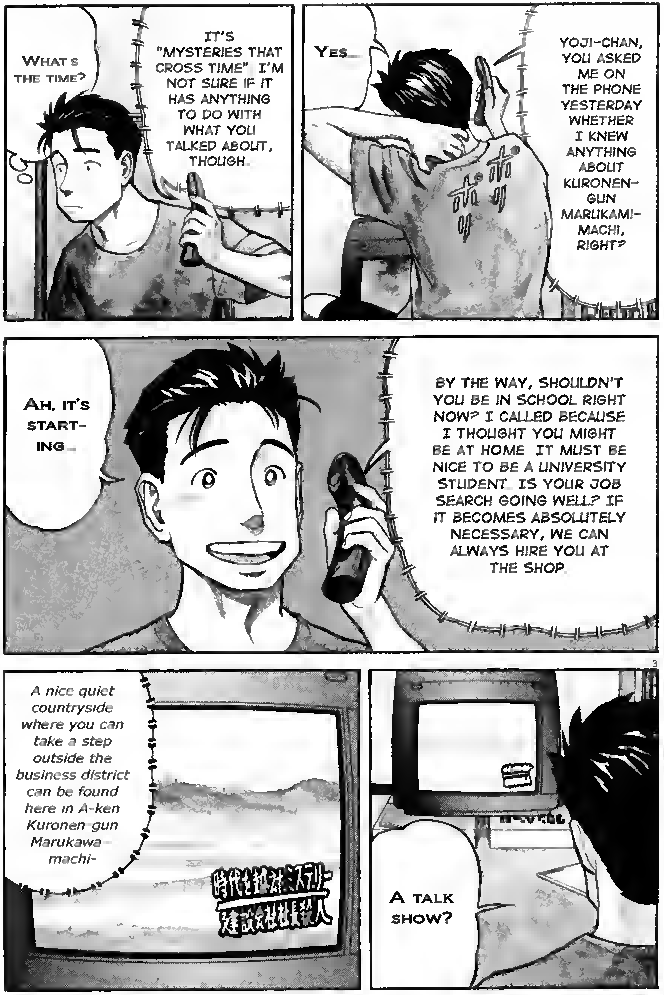

TV? WHAT CHAHHEL?
HELLO.. MICHIKO OBA-SAN?


YEAH YEAH YEAH..

2

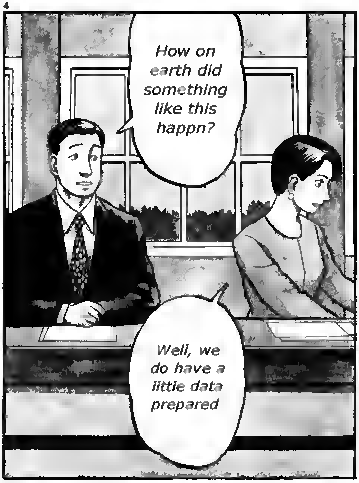
NO. LOOK.
IT'S JUST ADVER-TISING

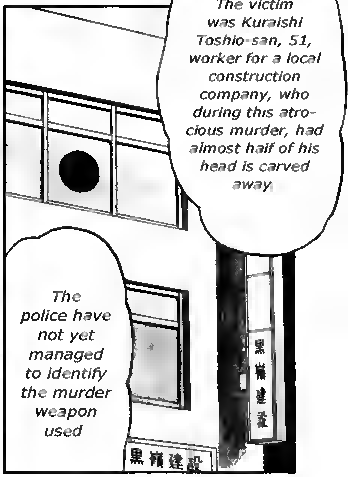
CLICK
YAWN!

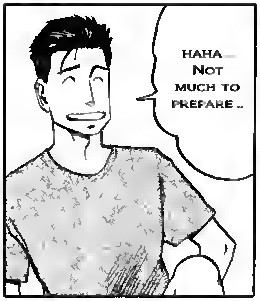

WHAT'S THE TIME?
IT'S "MYSTERIES THAT CROSS TIME". I'M NOT SURE IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU TALKED ABOUT, THOUGH.
YES...
YOJI-CHAN, YOU ASKED ME ON THE PHONE YESTERDAY WHETHER I KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT KURONEN-GUN MARUKAMI-MACHI, RIGHT?
AH, IT'S START-ING...
BY THE WAY, SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL RIGHT NOW? I CALLED BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE AT HOME. IT MUST BE NICE TO BE A UNIVERSITY STUDENT. IS YOUR JOB SEARCH GOING WELL? IF IT BECOMES ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, WE CAN ALWAYS HIRE YOU AT THE SHOP.
A nice quiet countryside where you can take a step outside the business district can be found here in A-ken Kuronen-gun Marukawa-machi-
A TALK SHOW?

But just yesterday, in this quiet rural town, a murder took place!

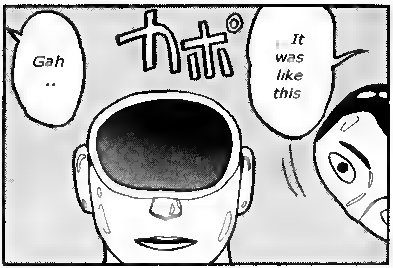
4

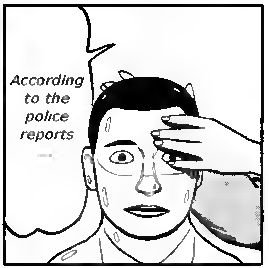

How on earth did something like this happn?
Well, we do have a little data prepared

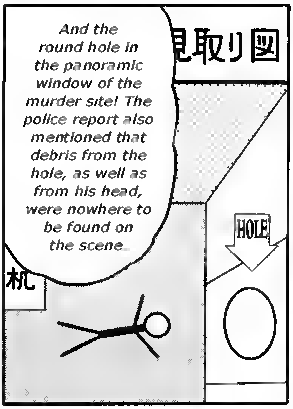

The victim was Kuraishi Toshio-san, 51, worker for a local construction company, who during this atrocious murder, had almost half of his head is carved away
The police have not yet managed to identify the murder weapon used

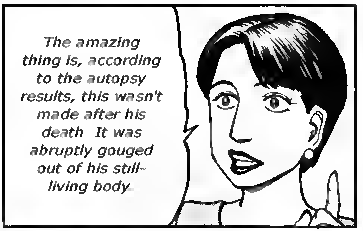

HAHA... NOT MUCH TO PREPARE..

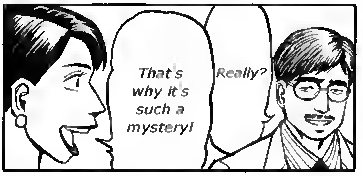
Here


カポ
Gah..
It was like this

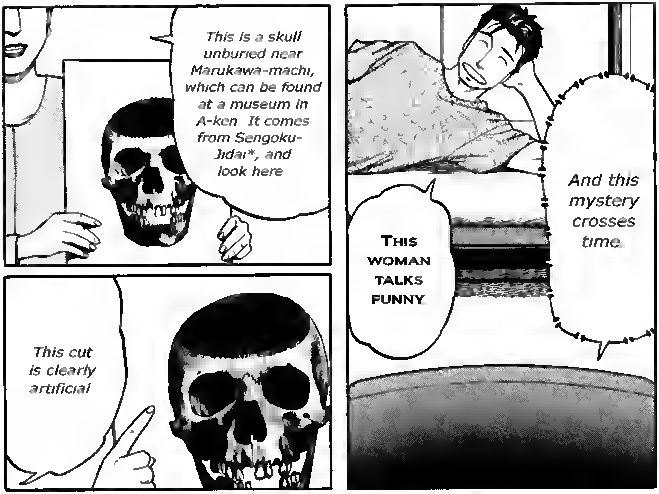

According to the police reports...


And the round hole in the panoramic window of the murder site! The police report also mentioned that debris from the hole, as well as from his head, were nowhere to be found on the scene.
見取り図
HOLE
机

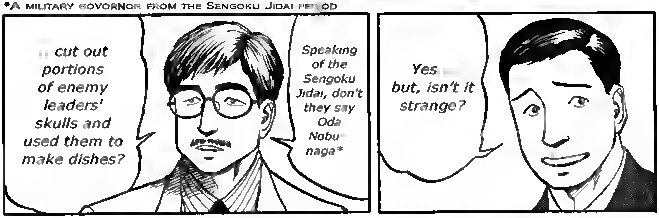

The amazing thing is, according to the autopsy results, this wasn't made after his death. It was abruptly gouged out of his still-living body.


That's why it's such a mystery!
Really?

*A PERIOD OF CIVIL WAR IN JAPANESE HISTORY LASTING ROUGHLY FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE 15TH CENTURY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 17TH CENTURY

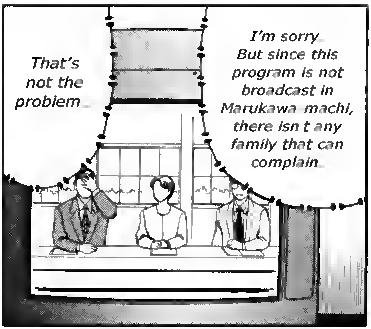


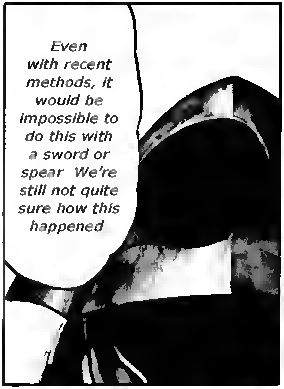
*A MILITARY GOVERNOR FROM THE SENGOKU JIDAI PERIOD

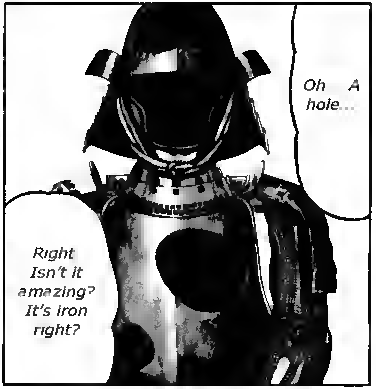


Koushima-san, this is a pretty sensitive issue here
I thought you might say that. Hehehe-hehehe.
Heheheh

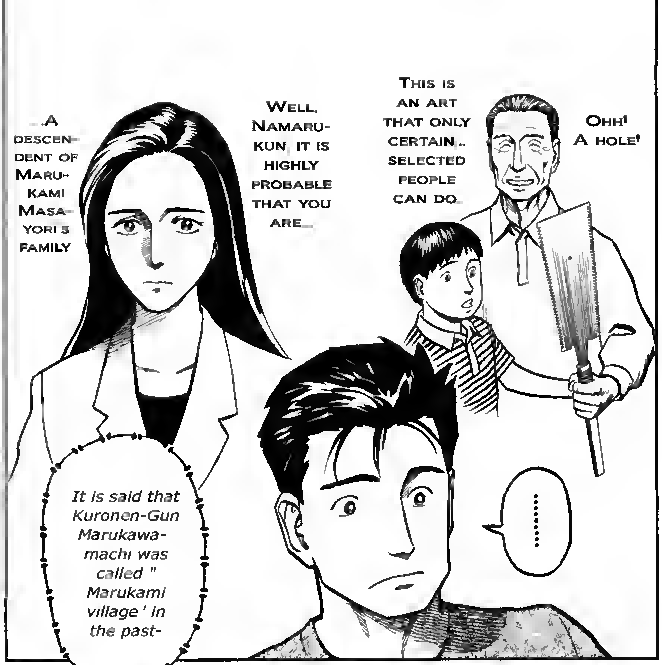
Moving on... Look at this armour found in the same museum

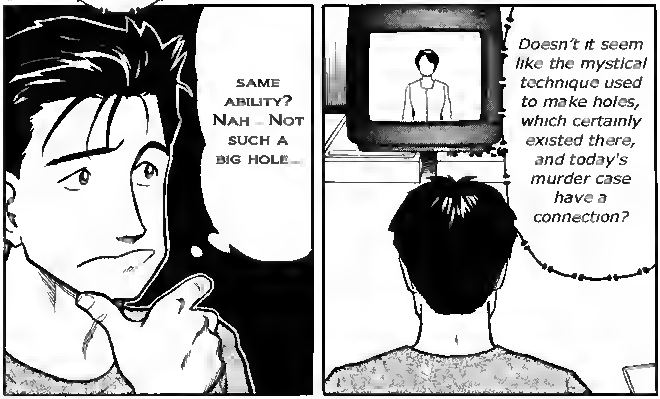

That's not the problem...
I'm sorry. But since this program is not broadcast in Marukawa machi, there isn't any family that can complain...

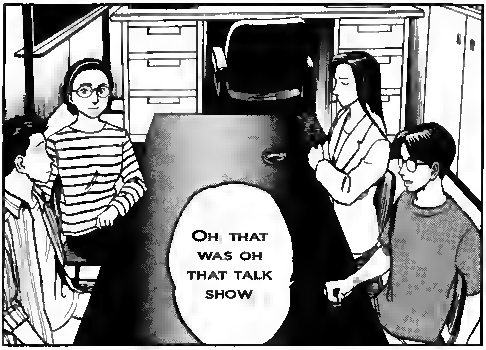

Even with recent methods, it would be impossible to do this with a sword or spear. We're still not quite sure how this happened


Oh... A hole...
Right. Isn't it amazing? It's iron right?

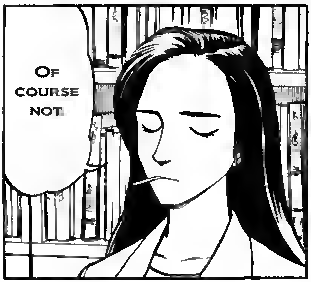
A HOLE IN IRON...
Also, the only place armour with holes have been found is at that location

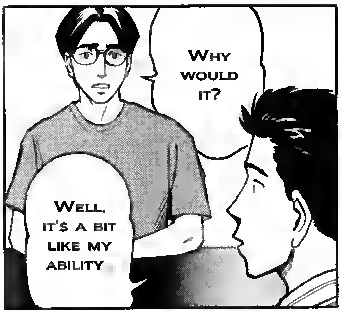

...A DESCENDENT OF MARUKAMI MASAYORI'S FAMILY
WELL, NAMARU-KUN, IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT YOU ARE...
THIS IS AN ART THAT ONLY CERTAIN... SELECTED PEOPLE CAN DO.
OHH! A HOLE!
It is said that Kuronen-Gun Marukawa-machi was called "Marukami village" in the past-
.....

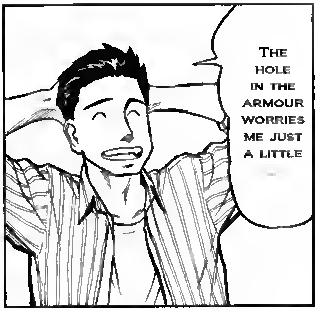

SAME ABILITY? NAH... NOT SUCH A BIG HOLE...
Doesn't it seem like the mystical technique used to make holes, which certainly existed there, and today's murder case have a connection?

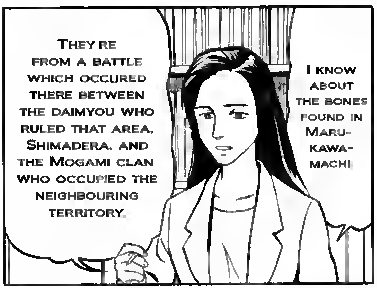


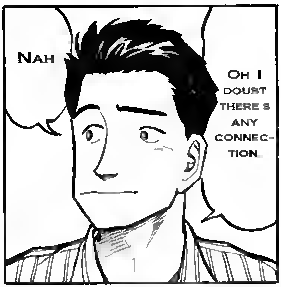
Maruka
Masaha

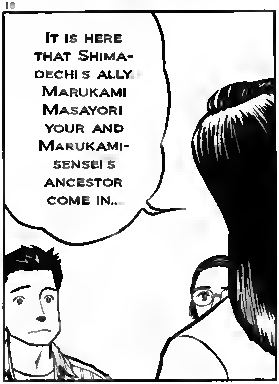


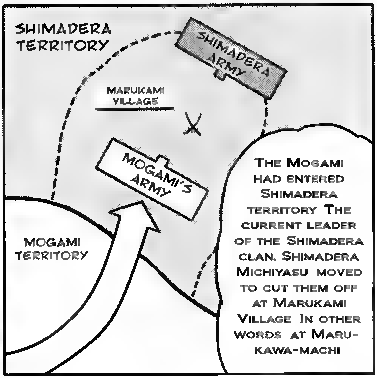

Why would it?
Well, it's a bit like my ability


The hole in the armour worries me just a little

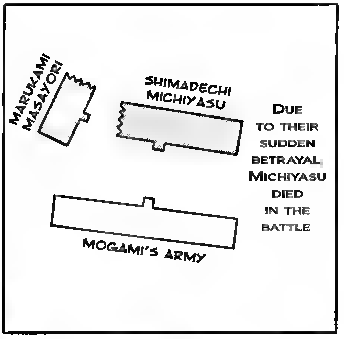

They're from a battle which occured there between the Daimyou who ruled that area, Shimadera, and the Mogami clan who occupied the neighbouring territory.
I know about the bones found in Marukawa-machi

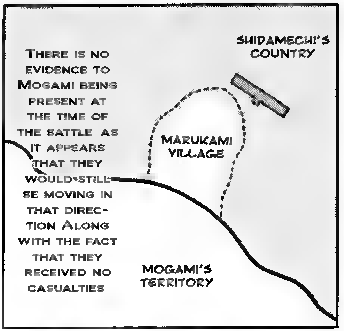

Nah
Oh I doubt there's any connection

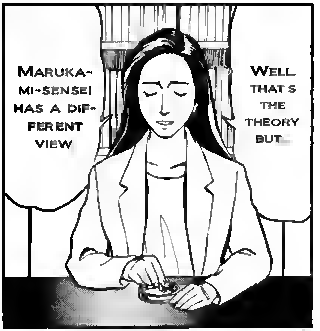

It is here that Shimadechi's ally Marukami Masayori your and Marukami-sensei's ancestor come in..

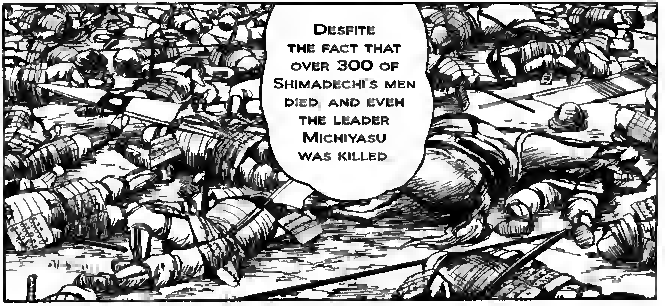

SHIMADERA TERRITORY
SHIMADERA ARMY
MARUKAMI VILLAGE
MOGAMI'S ARMY
MOGAMI TERRITORY
The Mogami had entered Shimadera territory The current leader of the Shimadera clan, Shimadera Michiyasu moved to cut them off at Marukami Village In other words at Marukawa-machi

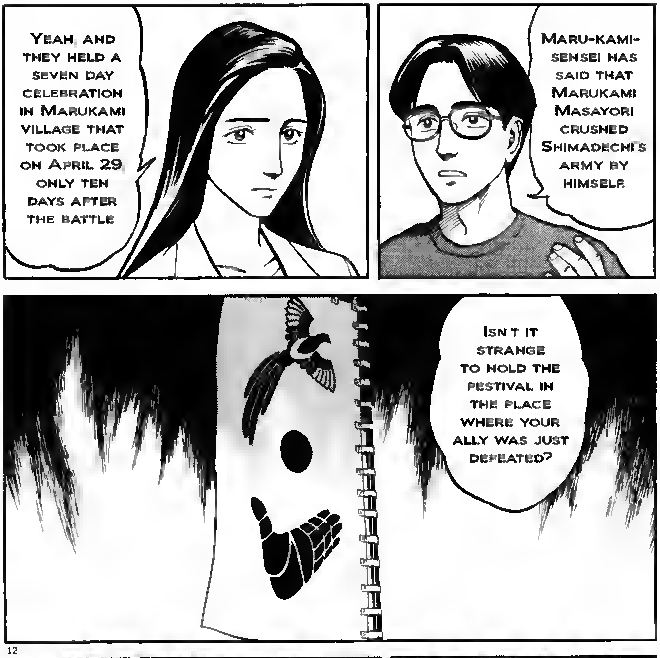
That makes me a little disap-pointed...
What? My ances-tor's a traitor?

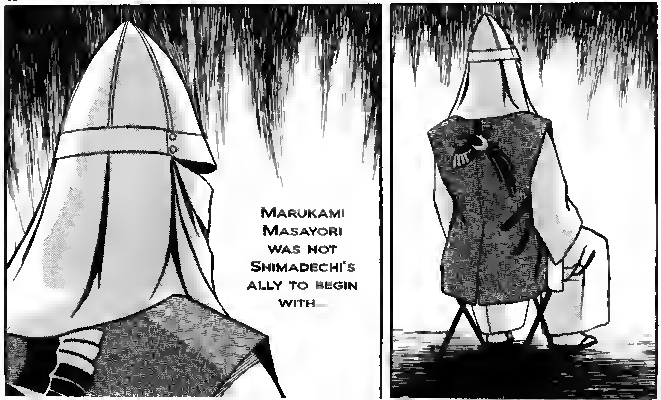

MARUKAMI MASAYORI
SHIMADECHI MICHIYASU
Due to their sudden betrayal, Michiyasu died in the battle
MOGAMI'S ARMY


There is no evidence to Mogami being present at the time of the battle as it appears that they would-still-se moving in that direc-tion Along with the fact that they received no casualties
SHIDAMECHI'S COUNTRY
MARUKAMI VILLAGE
MOGAMI'S TERRITORY


Maruka-mi-sensei has a dif-ferent view
Well, that's the theory but...

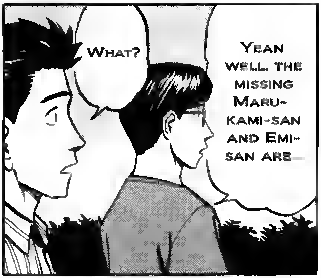

Despite the fact that over 300 of Shimadechi's men died, and even the leader Michiyasu was killed

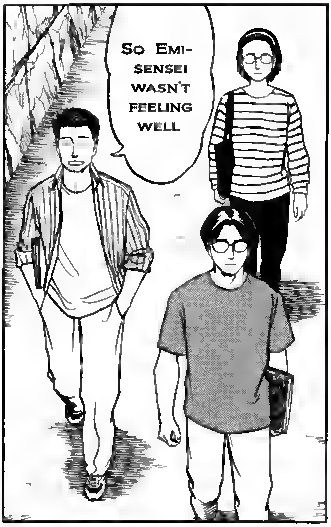

Yeah, and they held a seven day celebration in Marukami village that took place on April 29, only ten days after the battle
Maru-kami-sensei has said that Marukami Masayori crushed Shimadechi's army by himself
Isn't it strange to hold the festival in the place where your ally was just defeated?


Marukami Masayori was not Shimadechi's ally to begin with...

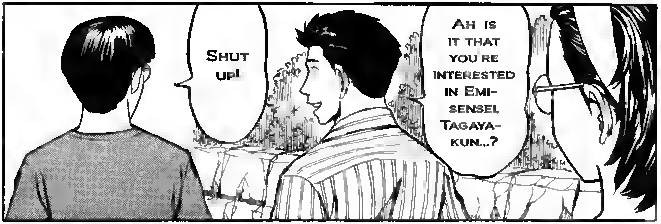
I don't believe that they fought with Shimadechi's army of 3000 and killed their leader.
It's said that Marukami's population was only 200 at the time. It would have only had 60 to 80 men able to fight...
But surely that's impossible
But Marukami sensei-!
I think the history books are right this time. Marukami-sensei might just have wanted his own ancestors to look a little better.
If the people of Marukami were Espers...
Marukami-sensei would rather die than do something so low.
Uh... Sorry...

Uh ?
Forget I said anything
Ha-ha-ha...
Uh, no
Sorry, but I'm going to leave now
Um... I don't feel so good
Wow, that was unexpected
Hey, show us your ESP

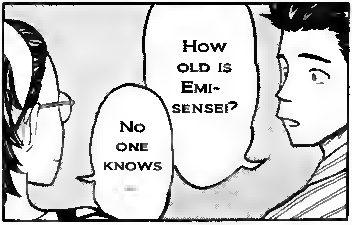

What?
Yean well, the missing Maru-kami-san and Emi-san are—

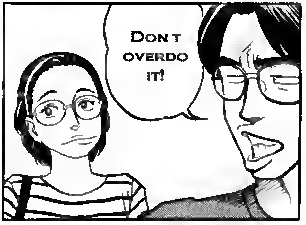

So Emi-sensei wasn't feeling well

Huh?
He seems to be tne one tnat isn't feeling good

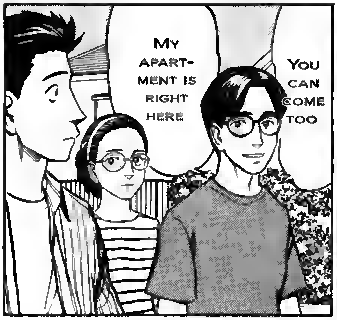

Shut up!
Ah is it that you re interested in Emi-sensei Tagaya-kun...?

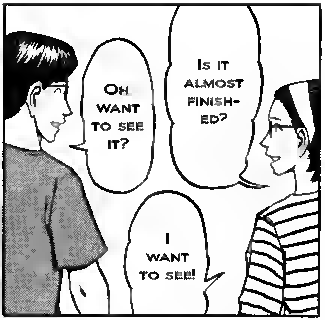
15


How old is Emi-sensei?
No one knows

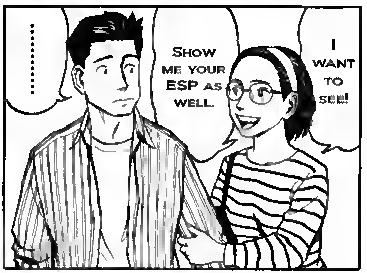

Don't overdo it!

You two are forth years, right? Shouldn't you be searching for a job!?
Nah It's all right
Yeah. It'll work out
Gah, I can't believe it!
What you worry over jobs even though you're an Esper and everything?
16
Being an esper doesn't help make money!
Damn! What about the 400 000 yen!?
An, that?
Oh!
Well, if you need money you can just...

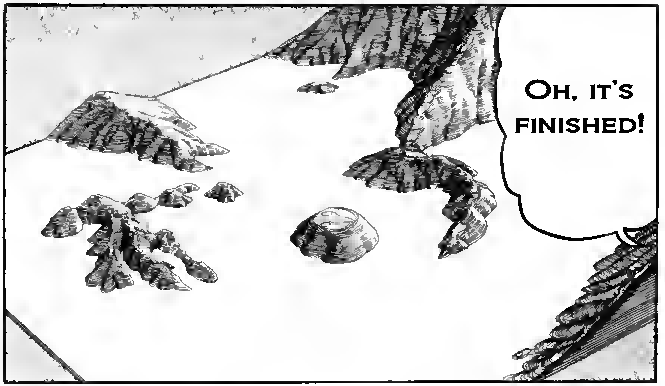

My apart-ment is right here
You can come too

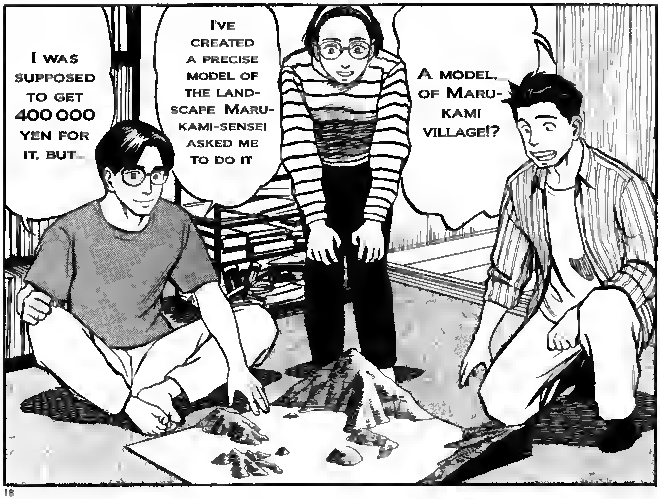

Oh want to see it?
Is it almost finish-ed?
I want to see!

Come in

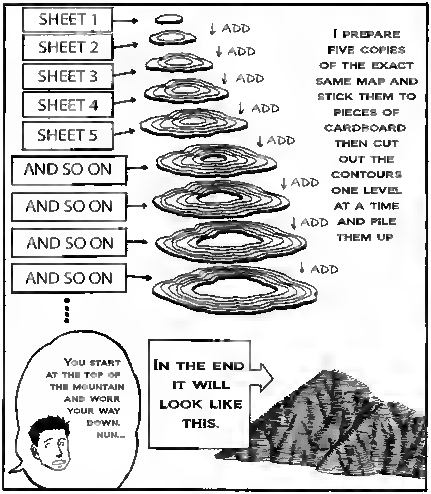

.....
Show me your ESP as well.
I want to see!

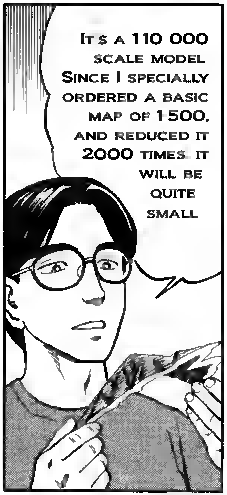
17


Oh, it's finished!

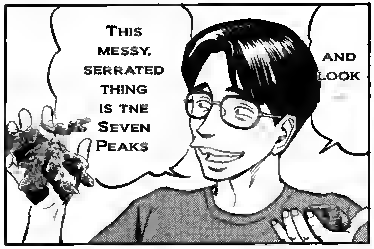

I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET 400 000 YEN FOR IT, BUT...
I'VE CREATED A PRECISE MODEL OF THE LANDSCAPE MARUKAMI-SENSEI ASKED ME TO DO IT
A MODEL OF MARUKAMI VILLAGE!?

18

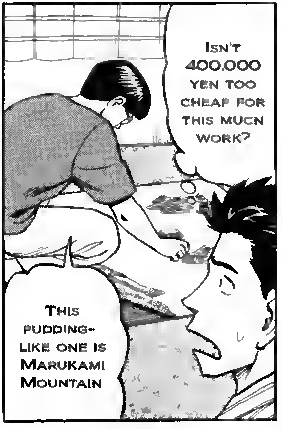

SHEET 1
SHEET 2
SHEET 3
SHEET 4
SHEET 5
AND SO ON
AND SO ON
AND SO ON
AND SO ON
↓ ADD
I PREPARE FIVE COPIES OF THE EXACT SAME MAP AND STICK THEM TO PIECES OF CARDBOARD THEN CUT OUT THE CONTOURS ONE LEVEL AT A TIME AND FILE THEM UP
YOU START AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN AND WORK YOUR WAY DOWN, NUH...
IN THE END IT WILL LOOK LIKE THIS.

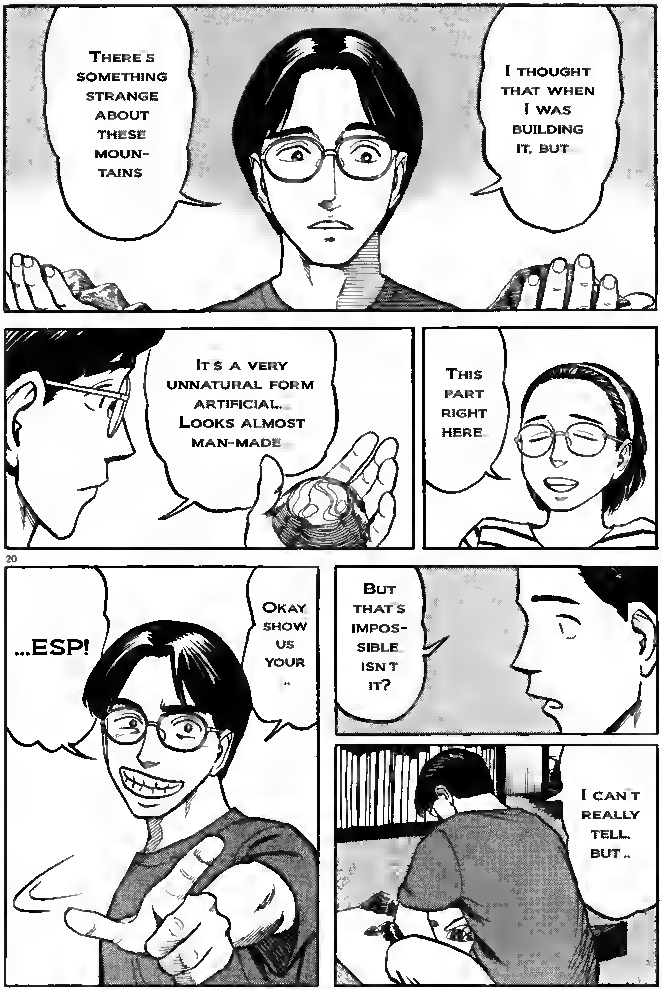

IT'S A 110 000 SCALE MODEL SINCE I SPECIALLY ORDERED A BASIC MAP OF 1500, AND REDUCED IT 2000 TIMES. IT WILL BE QUITE SMALL

どーん
Since two meters is equal to the width of one piece of paper, it takes 500 sheets to make a thousand meter mountain!
GAAAAAAAH


This messy, serrated thing is the Seven Peaks
and look

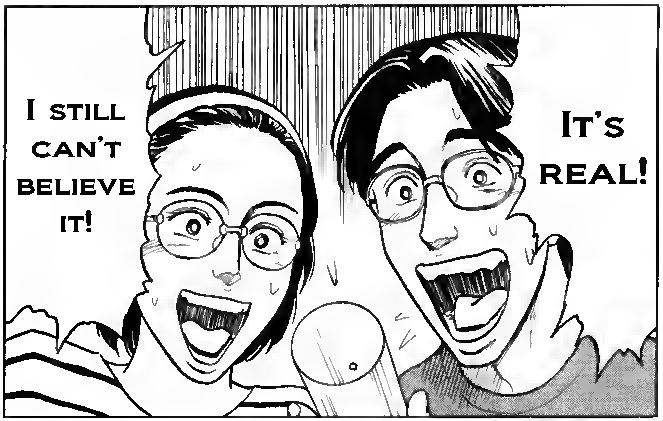
Weird isn't he?


Isn't 400,000 yen too cheap for this much work?
This pudding-like one is Marukami Mountain

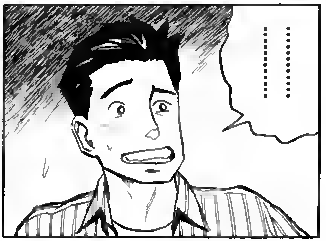

There's something strange about these mountains
I thought that when I was building it, but
It's a very unnatural form artificial... Looks almost man-made
This part right here
20
...ESP!
Okay show us your
But that's impossible isn't it?
I can't really tell. But..

OOOOOOOOOOOH
NGUUUUUH
CHWAA!
21
PHEW... HERE LIKE THIS.

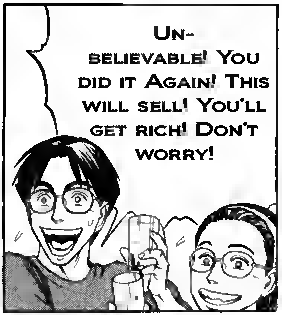
THE GLASS... DIDN'T BREAK...
.....
.....
YEAH BUT IT'S MEANING-LESS IT HAS NO USE AT ALL.
22
THIS! IT'S ESP!
AMAZING! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

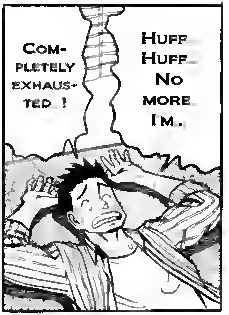

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S REAL!

Cuwah!


.....

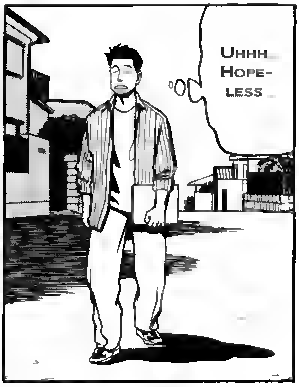
Uhh Uhhh you don't say.


Un-believable! You did it Again! This will sell! You'll get rich! Don't worry!

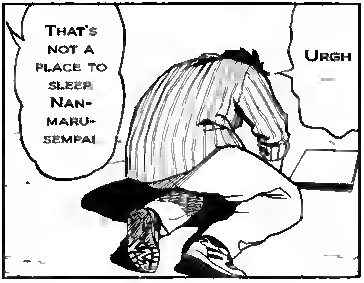

Com-pletely exhaus-ted !
Huff Huff No more Im.

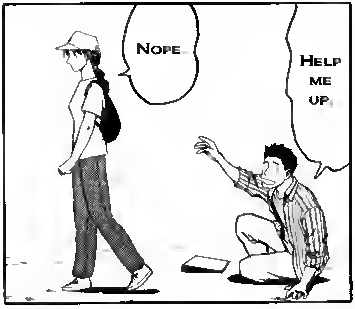
HA-HA-HA-HA!
AHA-HAHAHA! IT LOOKS LIKE WEE!
コポコポ
ARE THEY NORMALLY THIS HAPPY_?
THESE PEOPLE.
.....
キャーーー
24

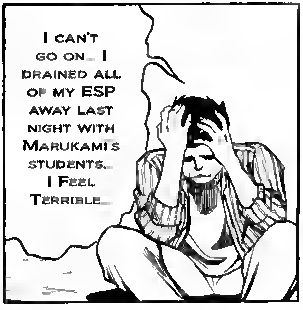
I'm exhausted Good thing it's a weekend today

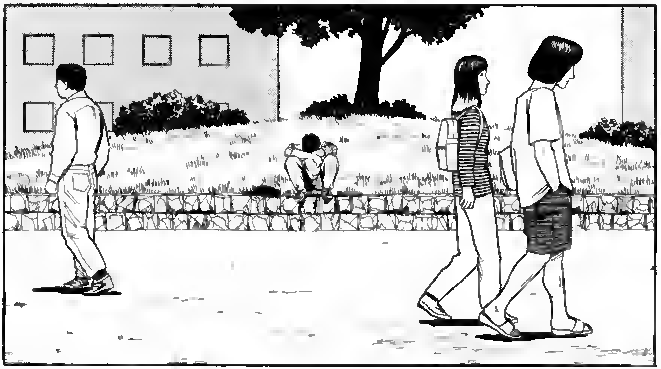

Uhhh... Hopeless...

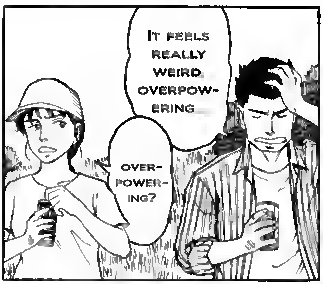
Ahh Aki

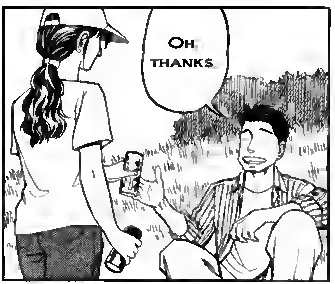

That's not a place to sleep Nanmaru-sempai Urgh


Nope Help me up.

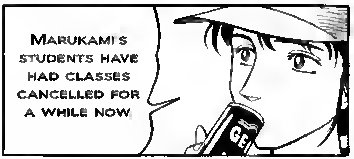

I can't go on... I drained all of my ESP away last night with Marukami's students... I feel Terrible...

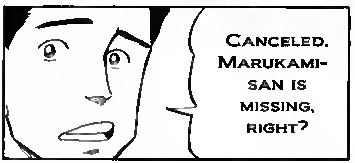


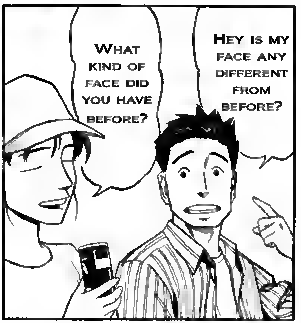

It feels really weird. Overpow-ering.
Over-power-ing?


Oh, thanks.

25

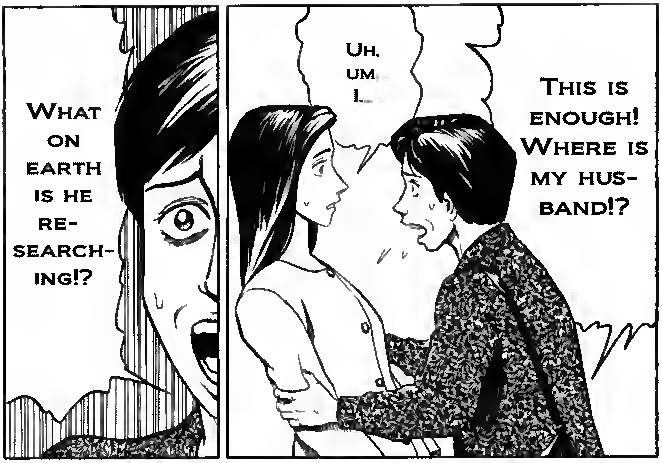

Marukami's students have had classes cancelled for a while now.


Canceled. Marukami-san is missing, right?


What kind of face did you have before?
Hey is my face any different from before?

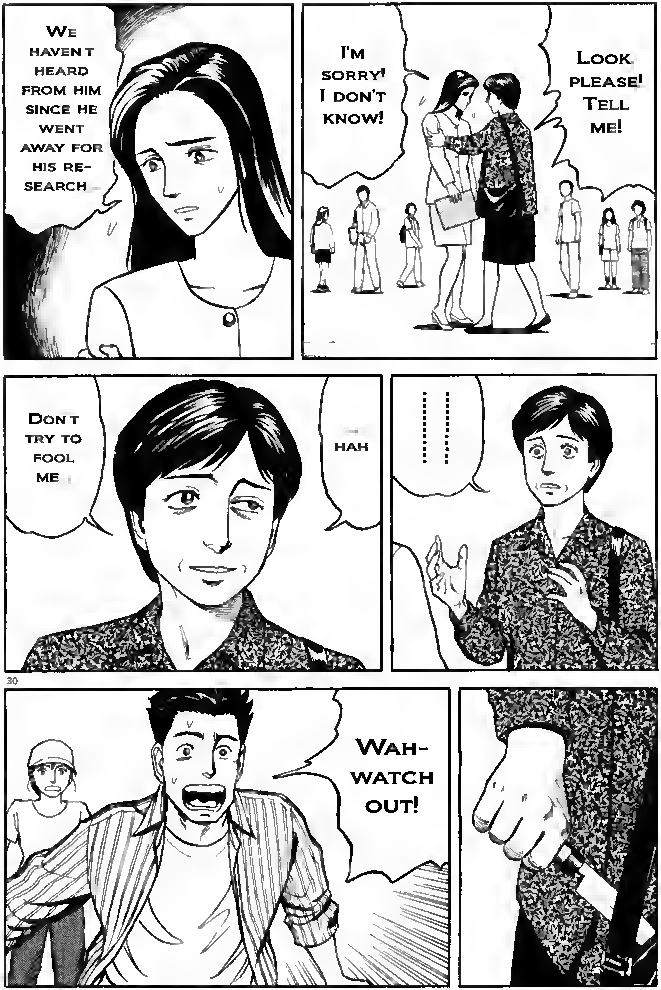
It's really suspicious
.....
But I would've thought there would be more of a commotion if a professor disappeared
Basically they can't declare him missing unless a search request comes from his family
She doesn't look like a student
Looks like some one's coming this way
Maru-kami-sensei's family
N-no Im..
Are you in his class?
You were just talking about Maru-kami-sensei

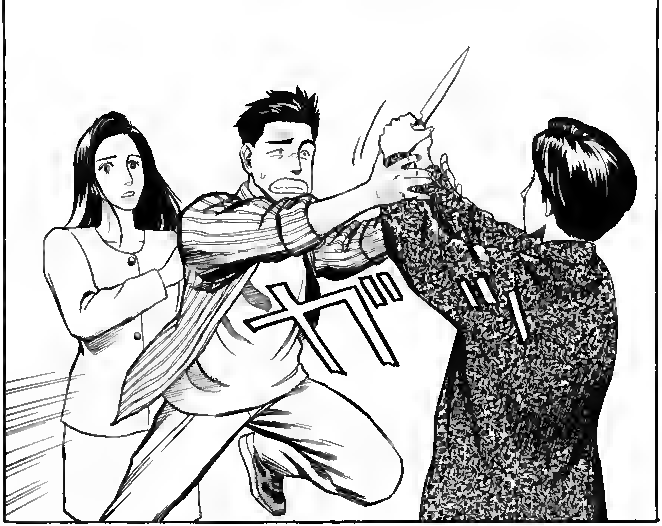
OH, YES. YOU CAN FIND HER...
OH...
DO YOU KNOW EMI-SAN?
EMI-SENSEI
HUFF.. HUFF..
EMI-SAN!


WHAT ON EARTH IS HE RE-SEARCH-ING!?
UH. UM I...
THIS IS ENOUGH! WHERE IS MY HUS-BAND!?

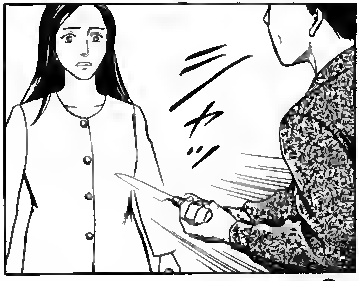
WIFE
MARU-KAMI-SANS...?

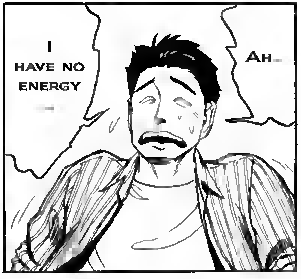
WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM...!!
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY HUSBAND'S HEALTH! HE SEEMED STRANGE BEFORE HE LEFT US!

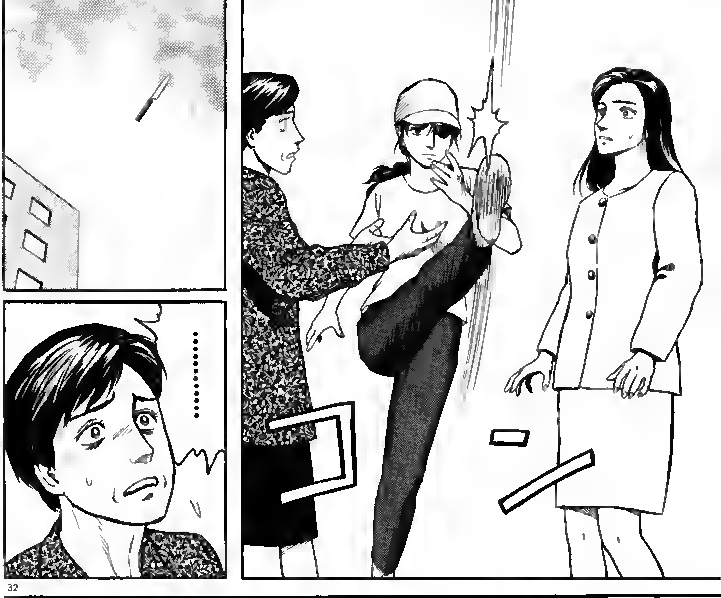

We haven't heard from him since he went away for his research
I'm sorry! I don't know!
Look, please! Tell me!
Don't try to fool me!
Hah
.....
Wah- watch out!



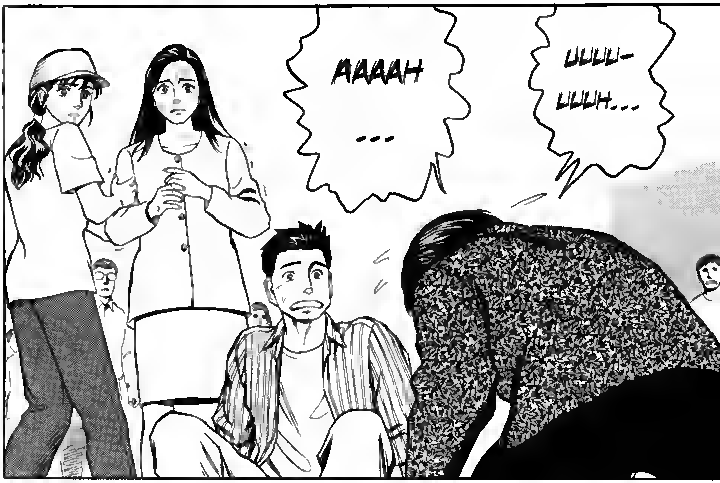
WAH!




I HAVE NO ENERGY
AH...



32

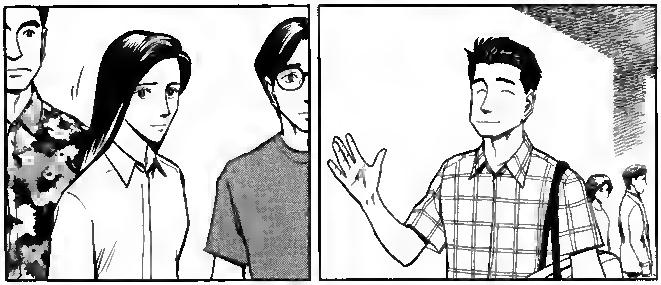


Chapter V

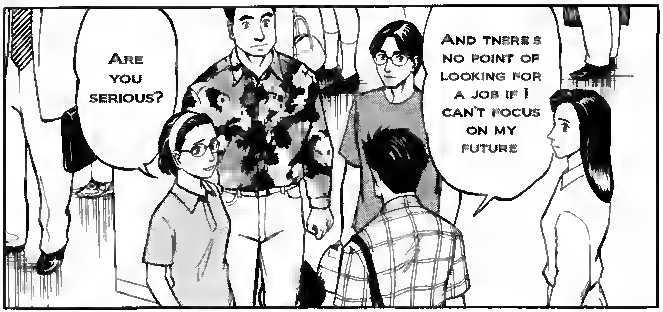
INTUITION

The Project Scanlations

JUNE
THERE HE IS



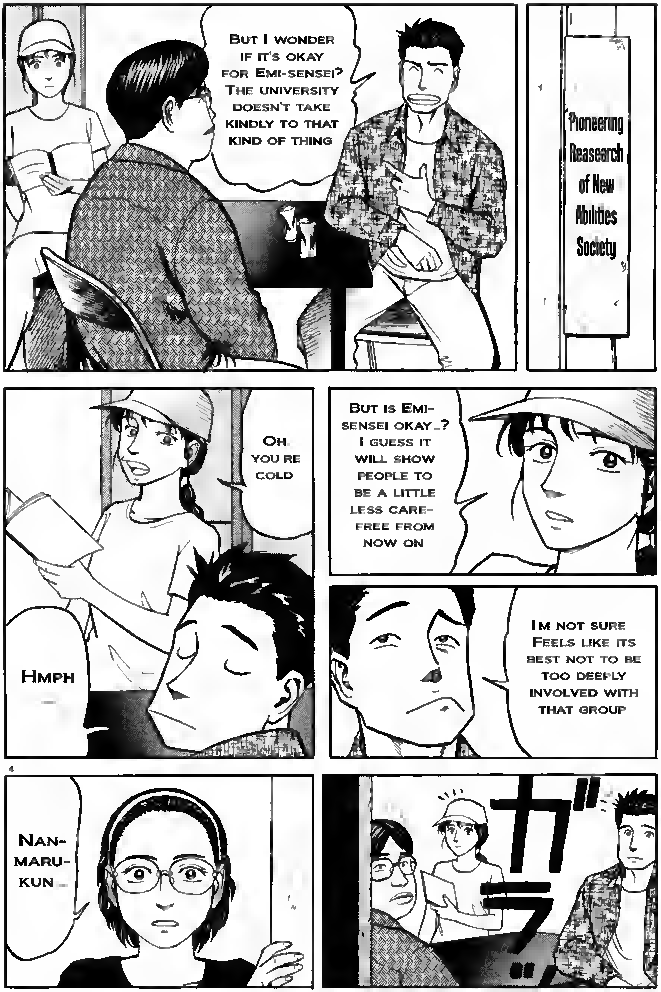
NAH I'D LOVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MY ANCESTRY, AND WHAT ON EARTH MY NAME REALLY IS
THANKS FOR COMING SORRY WE MADE YOU TAG ALONG EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A JOB.


ARE YOU SERIOUS?
AND THERE'S NO POINT OF LOOKING FOR A JOB IF I CAN'T FOCUS ON MY FUTURE

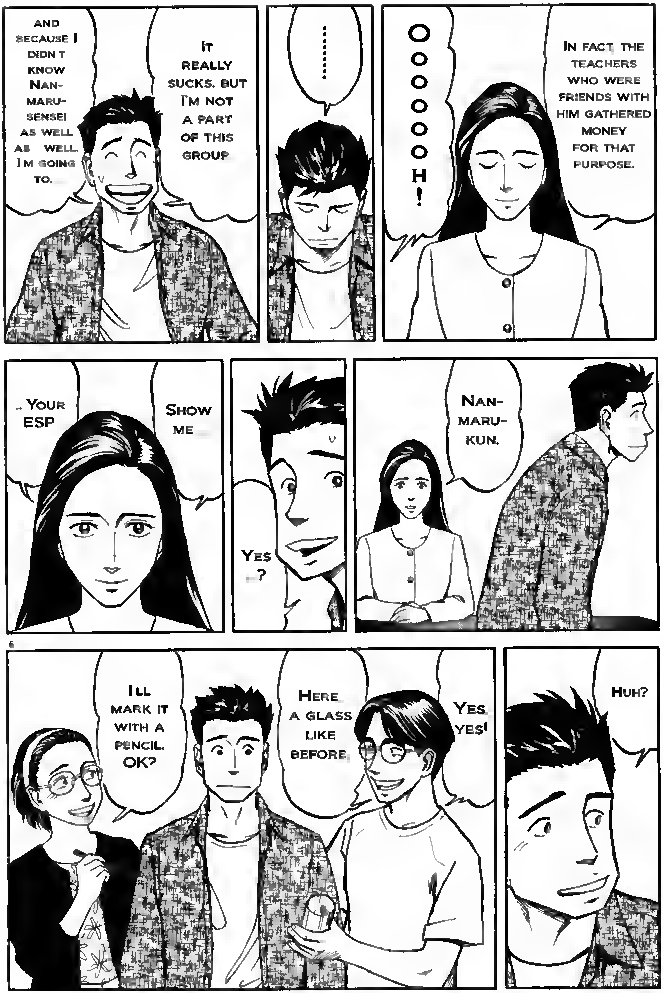
WELL, LET'S HEAD OFF...
...TO MARU-KAMI VILLAGE

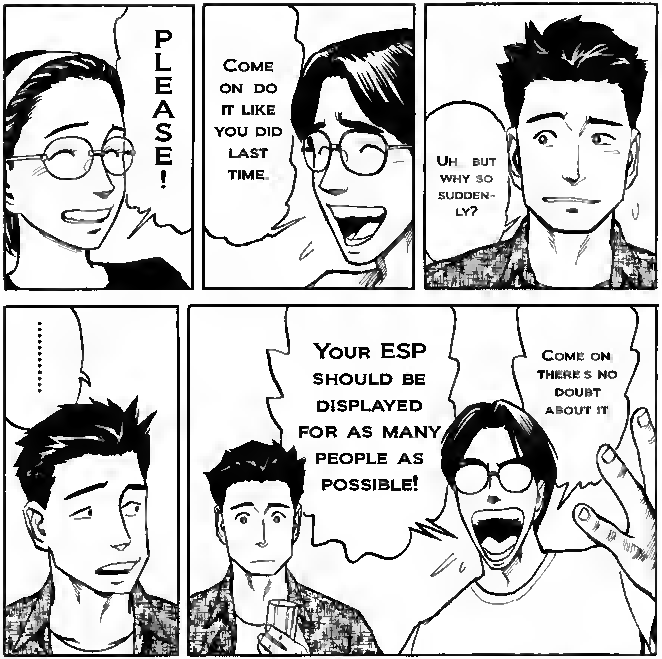
3

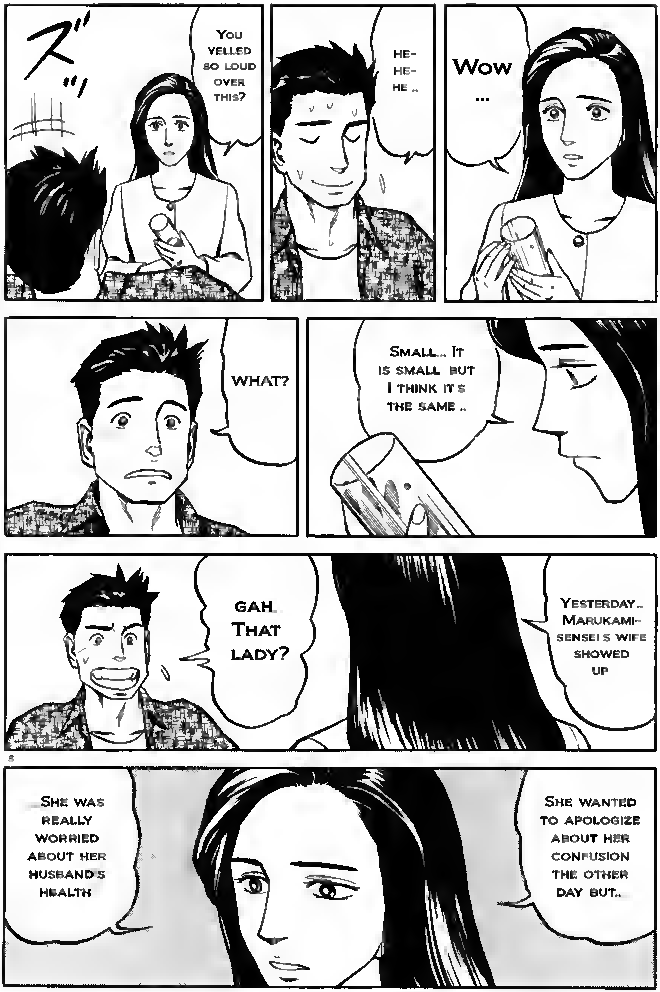
IT ALL STARTED A FEW DAYS AGO...

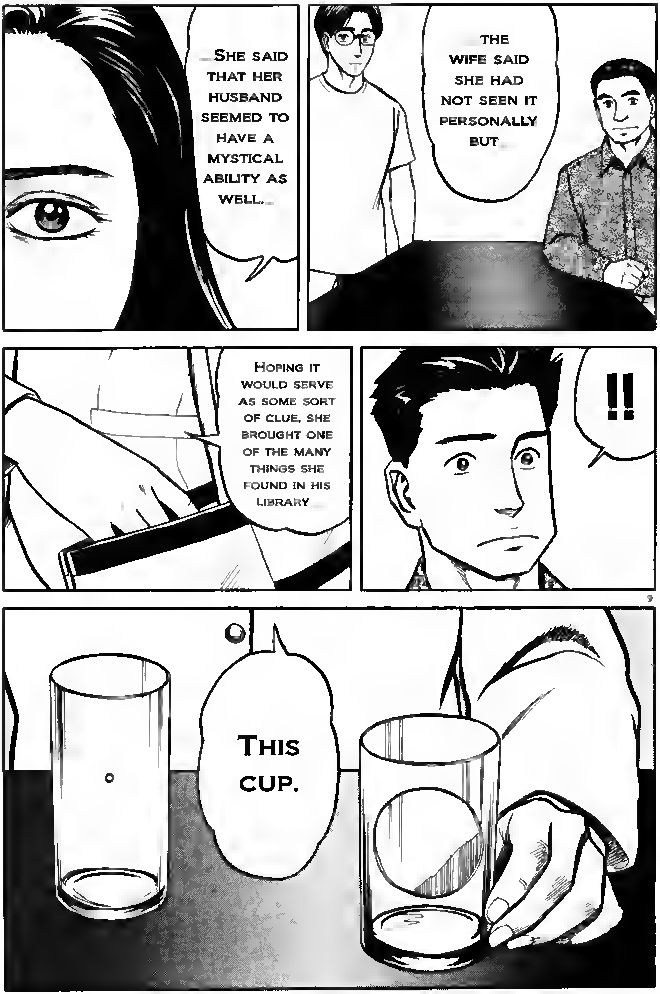

But I wonder if it's okay for Emi-sensei? The university doesn't take kindly to that kind of thing
Pioneering Reasearch of New Abilities Society
Oh you're cold
Hmph
But is Emi-sensei okay...? I guess it will show people to be a little less care-free from now on
Im not sure Feels like its best not to be too deeply involved with that group
Nan-maru-kun...
ガラ

But then, I guess I am curious!
Nan-maru-kun! Come to Marukami village with us!
We lost contact with Marukami-sensei while he was research-ing his ancestors...
I don't know how seriously the police would take his disap-pearance case since he is an adult
With no evidence that Maru-kami-sensei's been involved in an accident...
5
If we want to find Maru-kami-sensei, I doubt we'll find evidence unless we visit the places he might have been.
So it might be better for his students to look for the professor rather than the police


AND BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW NAN-MARU-SENSEI AS WELL AS WELL I'M GOING TO.
IT REALLY SUCKS. BUT I'M NOT A PART OF THIS GROUP.
.....
OOOOOOH!
IN FACT THE TEACHERS WHO WERE FRIENDS WITH HIM GATHERED MONEY FOR THAT PURPOSE.
YOUR ESP
SHOW ME
YES?
NAN-MARU-KUN.
6
I'LL MARK IT WITH A PENCIL. OK?
HERE A GLASS LIKE BEFORE.
YES, YES!
HUH?

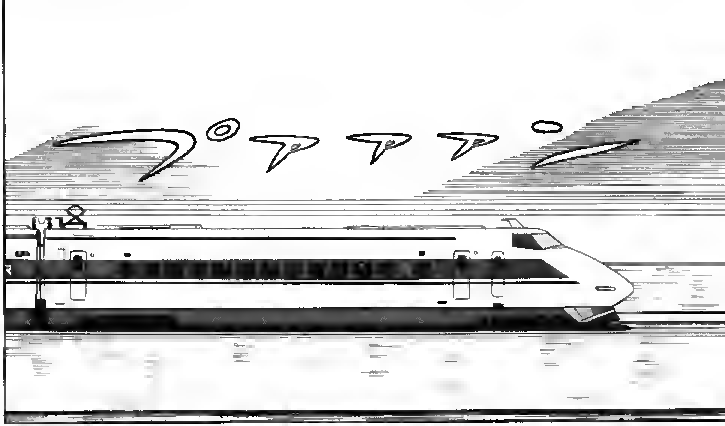

PLEASE!
COME ON DO IT LIKE YOU DID LAST TIME.
UH... BUT WHY SO SUDDENLY?
.....
YOUR ESP SHOULD BE DISPLAYED FOR AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE!
COME ON THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
FINE!

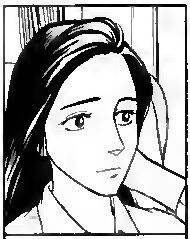

ズ"
You yelled so loud over this?
He-he-he..
Wow ...
What?
Small... It is small but I think it's the same..
Gah. That lady?
Yesterday.. Marukami-sensei's wife showed up
She was really worried about her husband's health
She wanted to apologize about her confusion the other day but..


She said that her husband seemed to have a mystical ability as well...
The wife said she had not seen it personally but...
Hoping it would serve as some sort of clue, she brought one of the many things she found in his library...
!!
This cup.

At the professor's study there were also pieces of wood and stone...
.....
If this is the same ability, there's an incredible difference...
10
Regardless of the material, they all had holes as if someone scooped them out with a spoon..
Ceramics, plastics and even metal machine parts...
When she stalked around the garden to look in, she saw a bright flash like from a camera on the other side of the rooms curtains. As well as a sound...
According to the wife he had said that he was doing dangerous experiments, and hid the key to his room...

WHAT COULD IT BE...?
YES, WHAT...?
WHO KNEW THAT THESE ABILITIES ACTUALLY EXIST!
BUT I'M SURPRISED!
I DON'T KNOW...
UM...
.....
HMMM... THE MARUKAMI FAMILY...
COULD THE HOLES IN THE ARMOR AND THE MURDER CASE ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH...

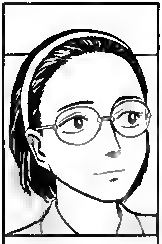




Lecturer
Emı Sayurı (??)

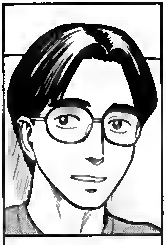
12

Weak Esper
Mınamımaru Yojı (21)

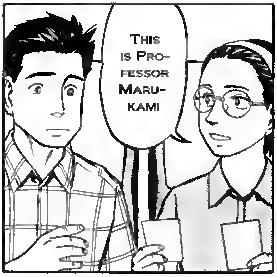


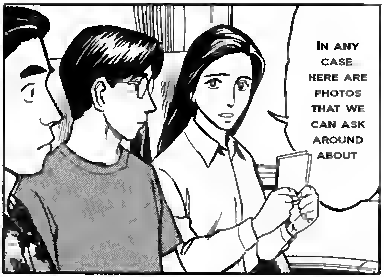
Group Member
Sakuragı Tomoko (21)

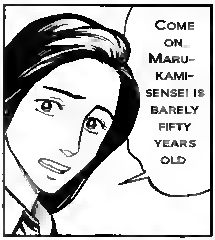
Researcher
Kawate Masayukı (25)

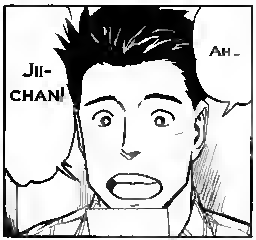


Group Member
Tagaya Mamoru (22)

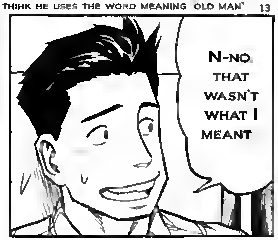


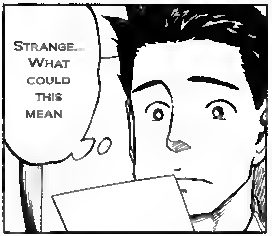






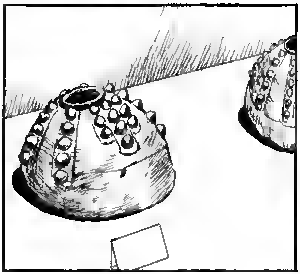
*Nanmaru means grandfather but the others think he uses the word meaning old man

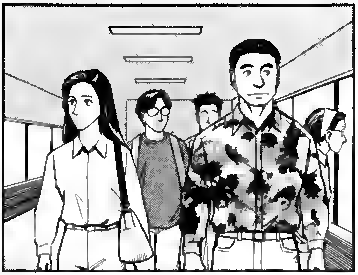




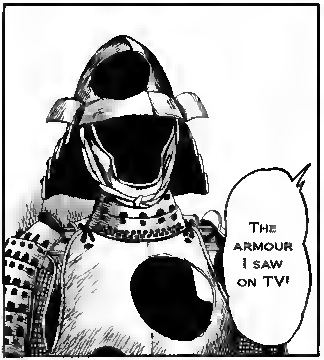
But in any case he's got me thinking about my grandfather Im not sure. It might just be...
Intuition
No, they're not similar at all
Does he look like your grandfather?
There must be something in the blood..
Speaking of it my grandfather was an Esper as well.
Aha... Intuition you say..

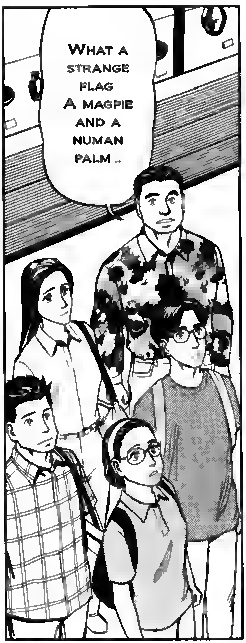
First we go to the A-Bank Museum. Im positive that the professor visited it as well
A-Bank Museum





15

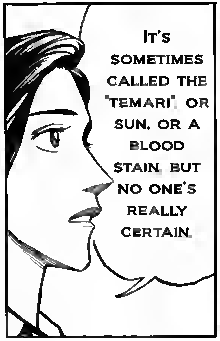


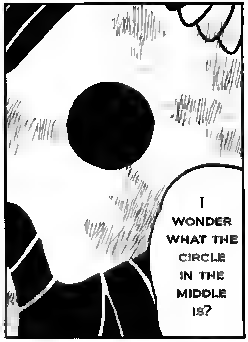

What a strange flag A magpie and a numan palm ..

This is Magpie's banner which has been passed down the generations by the local Marukami family

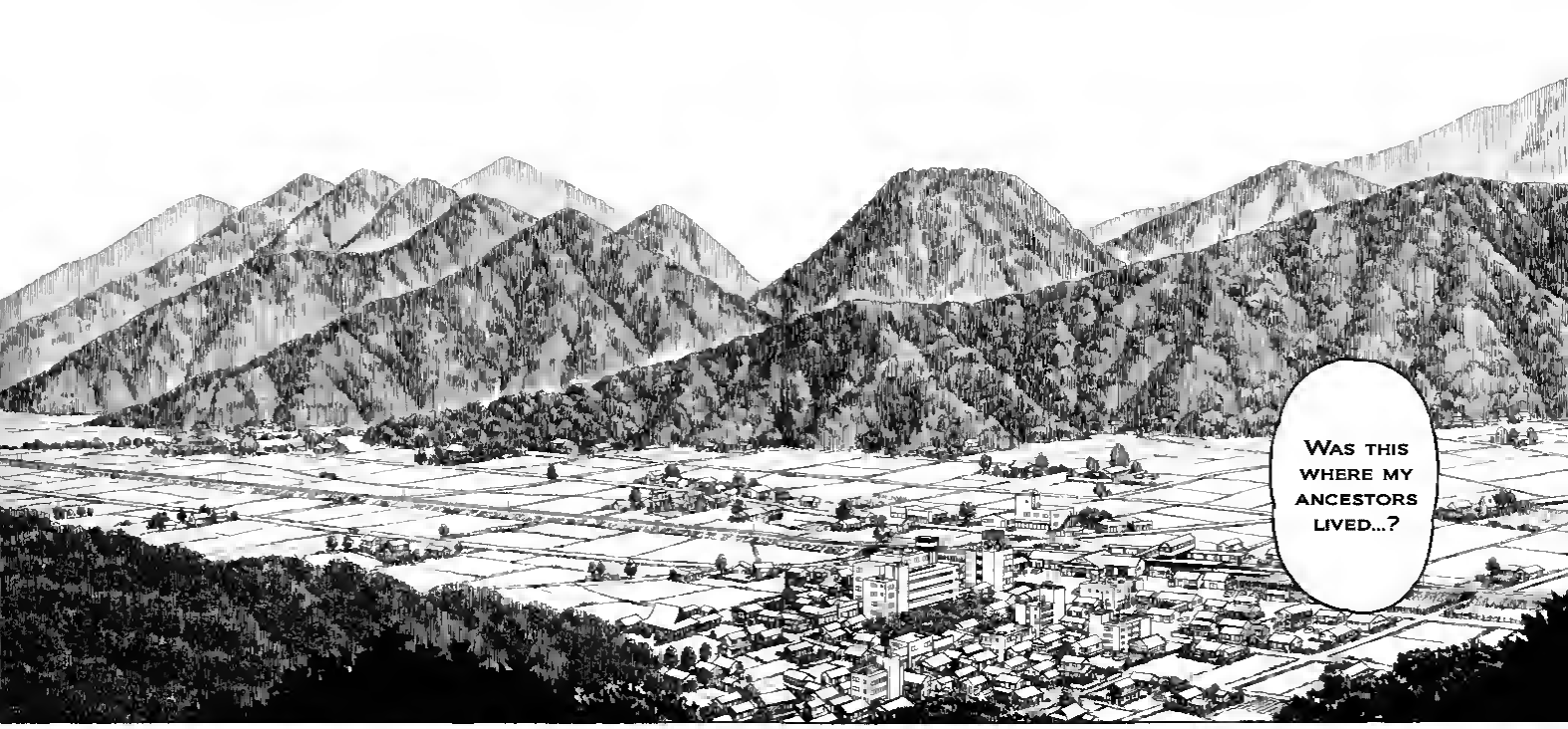
16

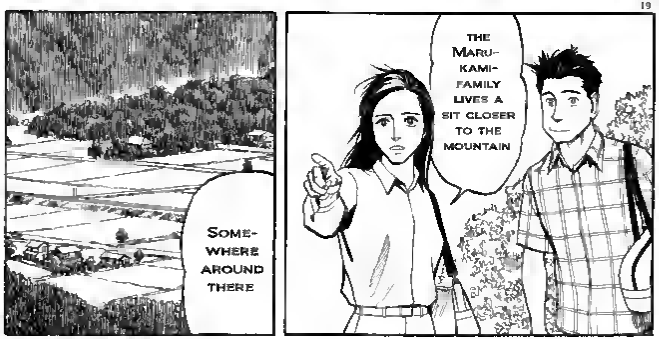
Hmmm...


It's sometimes called the "temari" or sun, or a blood stain, but no one's really certain.

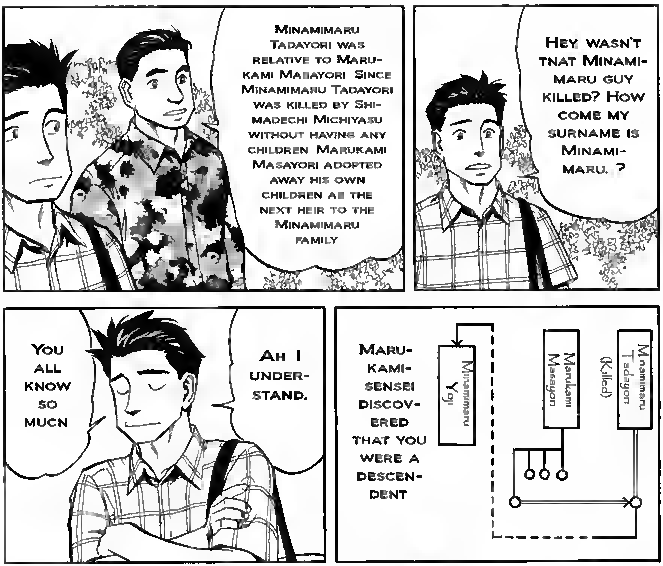

I wonder what the circle in the middle is?

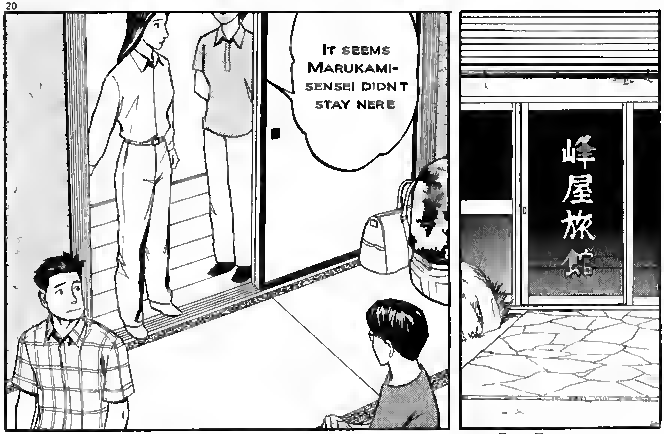
Well. I agree I think we should investigate
STRANGE?
And so is another mystery if you look at what Magpies are like.. This flag is a little strange
Aha!
Hey! Marukami-sensei was here! He asked the staff two or three questions
17
Marukawa Station
Was it here?


Was this where my ancestors lived...?


Somewhere around there
the Marukami family lives a bit closer to the mountain

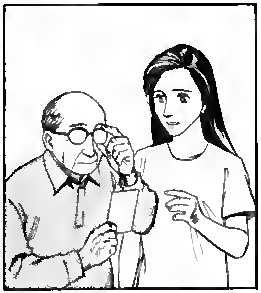
The seven peaks on the left and the pudding-shaped Marukami Mountain on the right
It's just like the model.


Minamimaru Tadayori was relative to Marukami Masayori. Since Minamimaru Tadayori was killed by Shimadechi Michiyasu without having any children, Marukami Masayori adopted away his own children as the next heir to the Minamimaru family.
Hey, wasn't that Minamimaru guy killed? How come my surname is Minamimaru...?
You all know so much.
Ah I understand.
Marukami-sensei discovered that you were a descendent
Minamimaru Yoji
Marukami Masayori
Minamimaru Tadayori (Killed)

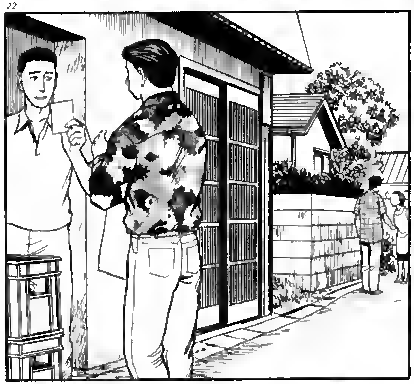


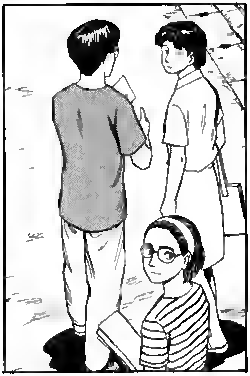
Sign: Ryokan hotel

OKAY!
WE SHOULD REST WELL IN ANY CASE
WELL SINCE THIS ISN'T A LARGE CITY IM SURE WE'LL FIND SOME EVIDENCE
21
HAHA BECAUSE WE HAVE A GOAL, WE CAN'T RELAX TO MUCH BUT

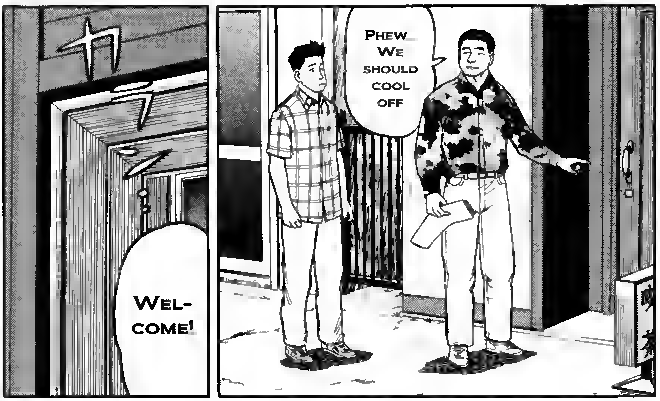


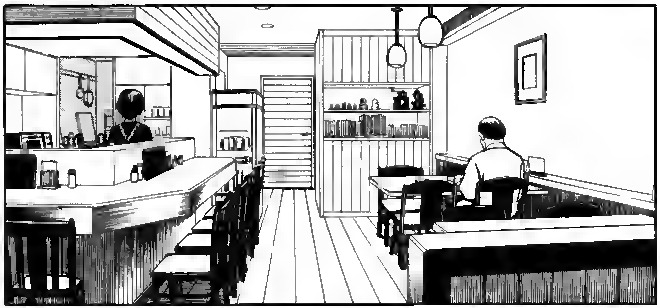
22





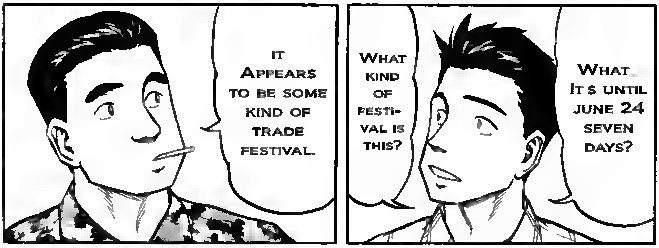
JUST WHERE SHOULD WE LOOK EXACTLY?
NAH NOT A TRACE
THIS IS A REALLY UNRE-MARKABLE TOWN. IT'S NOT EVEN MUCH GOOD FOR SIGHT-SEEING.
AHH. THAT MURDER?
黒猪建設
HMM. THIS IS THE CON-STRUCTION FIRM THAT WAS ON TV!
23
DON'T SAY SUCH NASTY THINGS
INDEED. PERHAPS THE CONSPIRACY WAS CAUSED BY PEOPLE IN THE MARUKAMI FAMILY WHO HAVE ESP

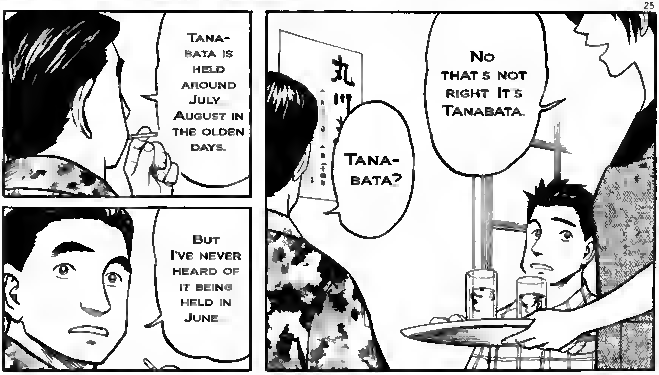




24

丸川まつり
六月十八日 — 六月二十四日
There are festivals everywhere in Japan.
Ohh They're having a festival.


It appears to be some kind of trade festival.
What kind of festival is this?
What It's until June 24 seven days?

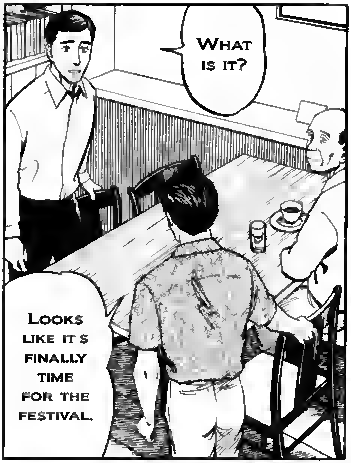

Tanabata is held around July August in the olden days.
But I've never heard of it being held in June.
丸川
Tanabata?
No that's not right It's Tanabata.

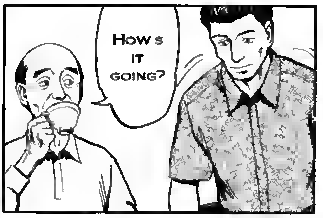
WELL, IT IS.
26
INTU-ITION, HUH?
AH ...

Chapter VI
YOUNGMASTER
The Project Scanlations

SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU
IT MUST BE CLOSE
WHAT MUST?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
SHE'S PRETTY HUH?
.....
2
IT'S "INTUITION."
THAT GIRL'S LINEAGE TO MINE
NO!
REALLY? DO YOU MEAN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT OR SOMETHING?

*The standard title for pub/cafe/restaurant/etc. owners.





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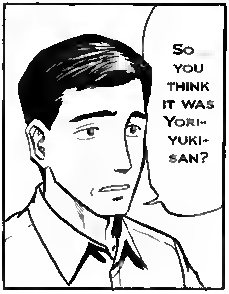
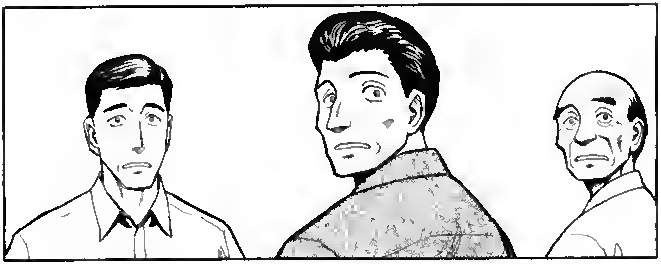
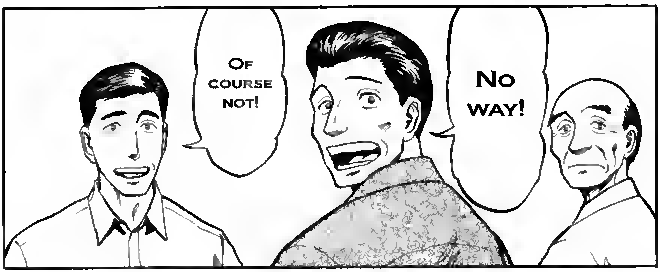


Does Takashi have that much force?
Well .. He was the one who "opened the window" Who else would have made it?
Sacchah has Takashi has come back recently?
Hey
Oh! Sacc-han!
Come on.
Why?
N- No-
You're talking a little loud There are other guests here as well.

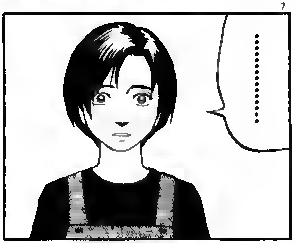
I DOUBT IT EVEN MAKES ANY SENSE FOR OUTSIDERS
I CAN TALK HOWEVER I WANT
IT WAS A MURDER! THEY COULD BE WITH THE POLICE!
THE PROF-ESSOR?
BY THE WAY WHERE'S THE PRO-FESSOR HOW IS HE?
FINE... I GET IT
5
HE WOULD PROBABLY BE AMAZINGLY STRONG IF HE STARTED AT AN EARLIER AGE.
OH YES, HE HAS IT AS WELL. I GUESS IT PROVES THAT HE'S A DESCENDENT

NAN-MARU...?
I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHY NANMARU BUT THAT CONVERSATION SEEMS REALLY DISTURBING...
YEAH...
AT LAST, 'MARU-KAMI'S LORD' HAS BEEN REVIVED!
ガタ
!!
6
PRO-FESSOR MARU-KAMI MASA-HARU?
THAT PROFESSOR WHO YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE'S.
EXCUSE ME I HAVE ONE THING TO ASK



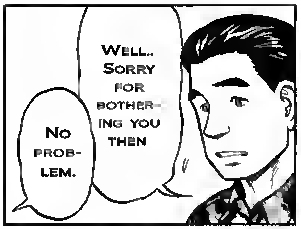

OF COURSE NOT!
NO WAY!

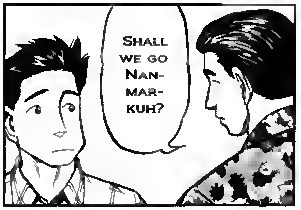
I'M NOT REALLY BUT...
WELL, WE ARE MARUKAMI-SENSEI'S STUDENTS.

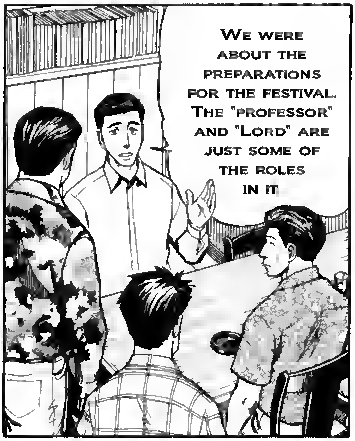

.....

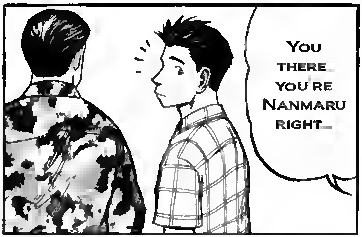
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

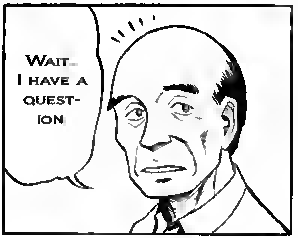
Well
We lost contact with Marukami-sensei after he arrived in this city, so we've come here to look for him
Yes, he said his ancestors lived here
Does this Marukami have family from inside the city?
When you say Marukami, I'm pretty sure it's the name of the lord in this area. It was also the name of the region in the past
Are you sure you don't know? He's around 50 years old
He may be a relative of that Marukami
There have been Marukami in this town since the olden days but the head of the family left for Tokyo at some point
I don't recall seeing anyone like this...
What about you, Master?
No, that doesn't sound familiar at all


Well.. Sorry for bother-ing you then
No prob-lem.

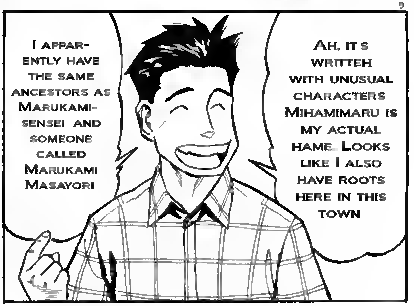

Shall we go Nan-mar-kuh?


We were about the preparations for the festival. The "professor" and "Lord" are just some of the roles in it

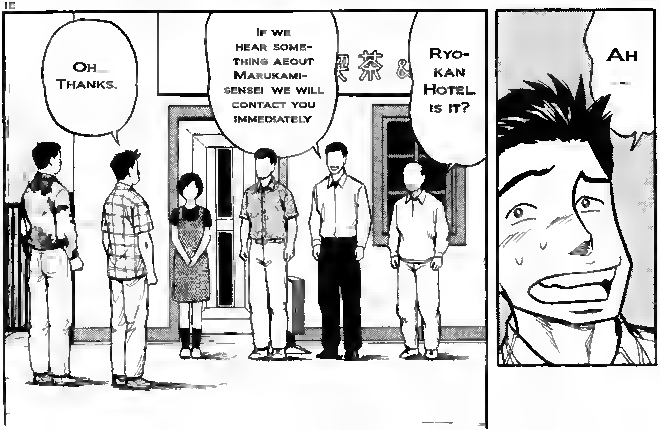

You there.. you're Nanmaru right..

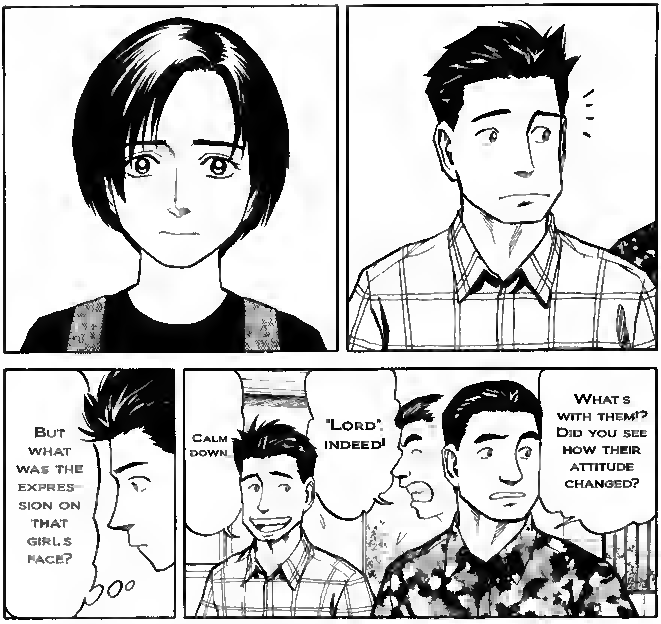

Wait.. I have a quest-ion

Oh!


I appar-ently have the same ancestors as Marukami-sensei and someone called Marukami Masayori
Ah, it's writteh with unusual characters Mihamimaru is my actual hame. Looks like I also have roots here in this town

EH ...?
TERRIBLY SORRY!
EXCUSE US!
ガヤ
UM ...
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
YOU'RE YOUNG!
WAS IT MINAMI-MARU-SAN? SORRY FOR THE MISTAKE!
WOAH

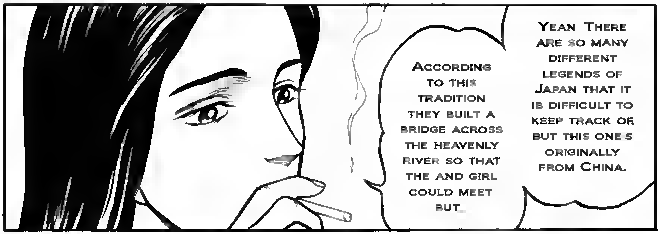

OH... THANKS.
IF WE HEAR SOMETHING ABOUT MARUKAMI-SENSEI WE WILL CONTACT YOU IMMEDIATELY
RYOKAN HOTEL IS IT?
AH ...

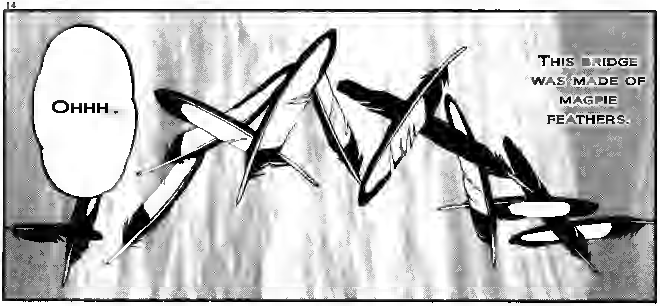

But what was the expression on that girl's face?
Calm down.
"Lord", indeed!
What's with them!? Did you see how their attitude changed?
峰屋旅館
How was it?
Hopeless. I figure at least one person would have seen him.
I should have asked her name

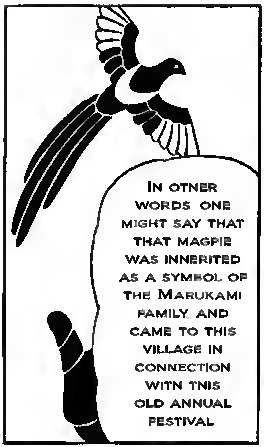
Oh, you noticed that as well?
Some of the people we asked seemed to se a little worried when we showed the photo of Marukami sensei
There's one thing that worries me a bit...
Hey!
Hmm... I also thought
Not much progress really
Not really
Oh, what is it with you, Nanmaru-kun, you look happy. Find any clues?
But don't you think The Tanabata festival seems a bit strange?
He-he-he
Haha-haha, not bad! As if you were a lord or sometning!

The magpie has never lived north of Tokyo. In Japan it only lives on Kyusnu, Japan's southern-most island.
Yeah. You said it was a bit strange in the museum.
Yes, but now we've solved the mystery of the magpie's banner.
It's said that they followed the commander back from the continent.
They first came to Japan Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Imjin war.
What? Really?
13
Well... it seems that different belief systems or legends get mixed up depending oh the area due to various stories or festivals, but it's basically a love story.
And now we have the Tanabata Festival. Do you know about it?
Aha... Then it's strange that it's painted on tne magpies banner from Sengoku Jidai...

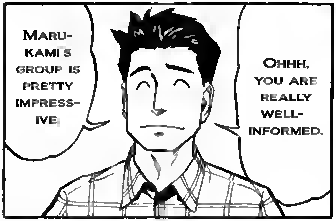
I've forgotten which area this was, but they say if rain falls even once between the first and 7th of July, the water of the river of heaven overflows and they are unable to meet. The conditions were very harsh.
The stars Altair in the constellation Aquila and Vega in the constellation Lyra were seen as lovers. Once every year, they could cross the river of heaven which lay between them, and meet.

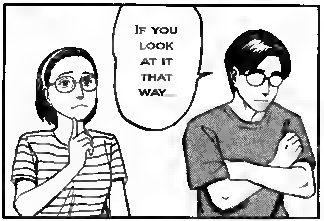

According to this tradition they built a bridge across the heavenly river so that the and girl could meet but.
Yean. There are so many different legends of Japan that it is difficult to keep track of, but this one's originally from China.

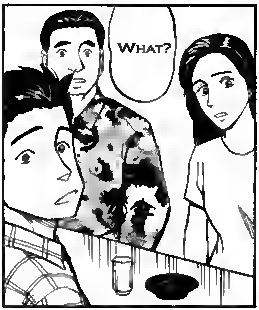

Ohhh.
This bridge was made of magpie feathers.


In otner words one might say that that magpie was innerited as a symbol of the Marukami family and came to this village in connection witn tnis old annual festival

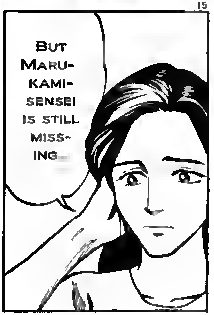
Magpies represented the relation-snip between man and woman back then
I didn't know


Maru-kami's group is pretty impress-ive
Ohhh, you are really well-informed.

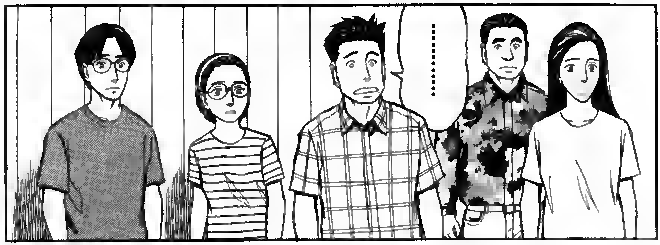

If you look at it that way...


What?

Some people are here for you
Sor-ry every-body...


But Maru-kami-sensei is still miss-ing...

Yes we welcome you to your ancestor's home village!
Ohh! Are you Minami-maru-san!?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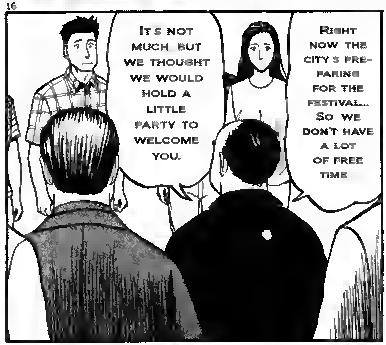
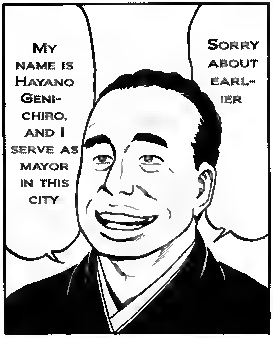
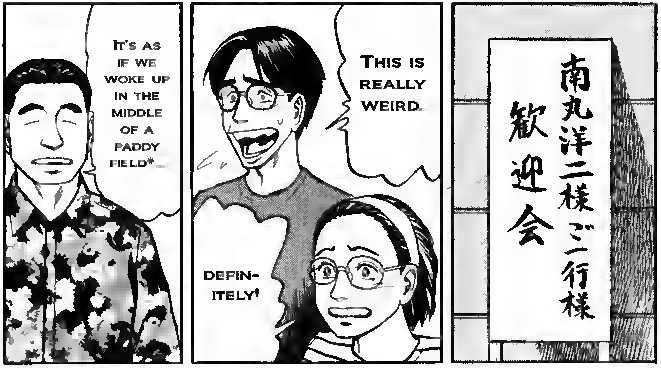
16

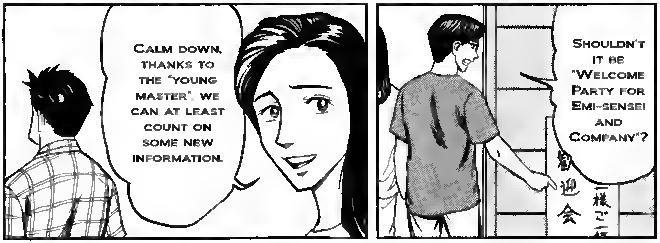

It's not much, but we thought we would hold a little party to welcome you.
Right now the city's preparing for the festival... So we don't have a lot of free time

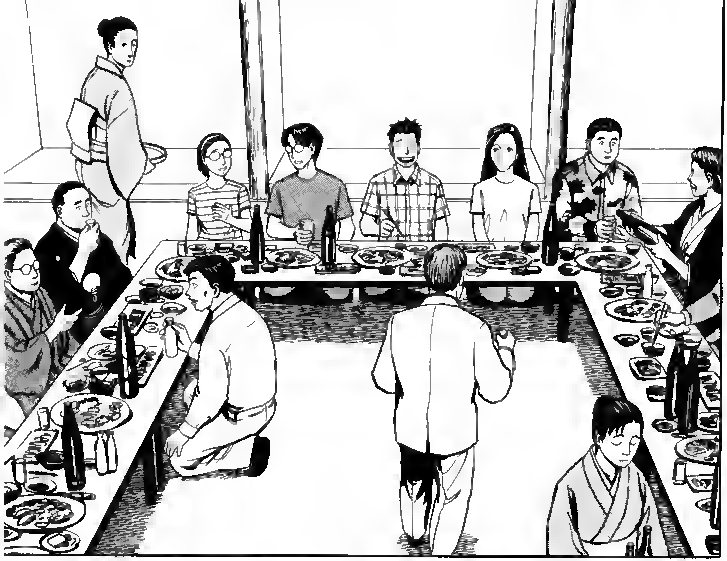

My name is Hayano Genichiro, and I serve as mayor in this city
Sorry about earlier

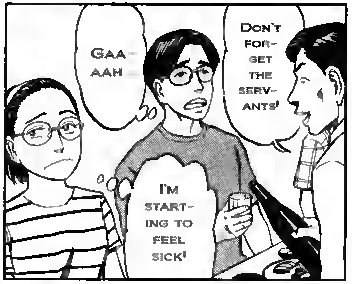
We're not really here to visit...
Erm...
Uh...
But as we understand it both professor Marukami-sehsei-sama and Mihami-maru-sehsei-sama here are descendants of the village lord!
SENSEI?
That you are concerned about Professor Marukami-sensei-samas disappearance!
Yes Ive already heard...
Hayano, this isn't an election campaign...
We are truly sorry por your loss! We promise that the entire village will help you!
Just relax Have some fun!
Uh but...
Wel-come!
Wel-come!
Wel-come, everyone!

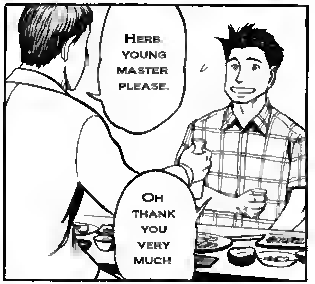


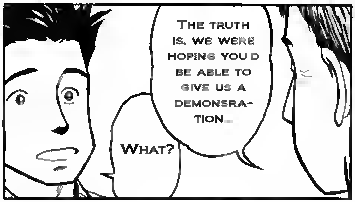
*Not sure how this reference is relevant or accurate, but I suppose it would be we're...

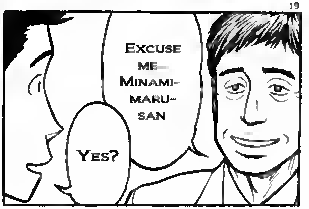

Calm down. Thanks to the "young master", we can at least count on some new information.
Shouldn't it be "Welcome Party for Emi-sensei and Company"?
歓迎会
一様ご一




GAA-AAH...
DON'T FOR-GET THE SERV-ANTS!
I'M START-ING TO FEEL SICK!


HERE. YOUNG MASTER PLEASE.
OH THANK YOU VERY MUCH


THE TRUTH IS, WE WERE HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO GIVE US A DEMONSRA-TION...
WHAT?

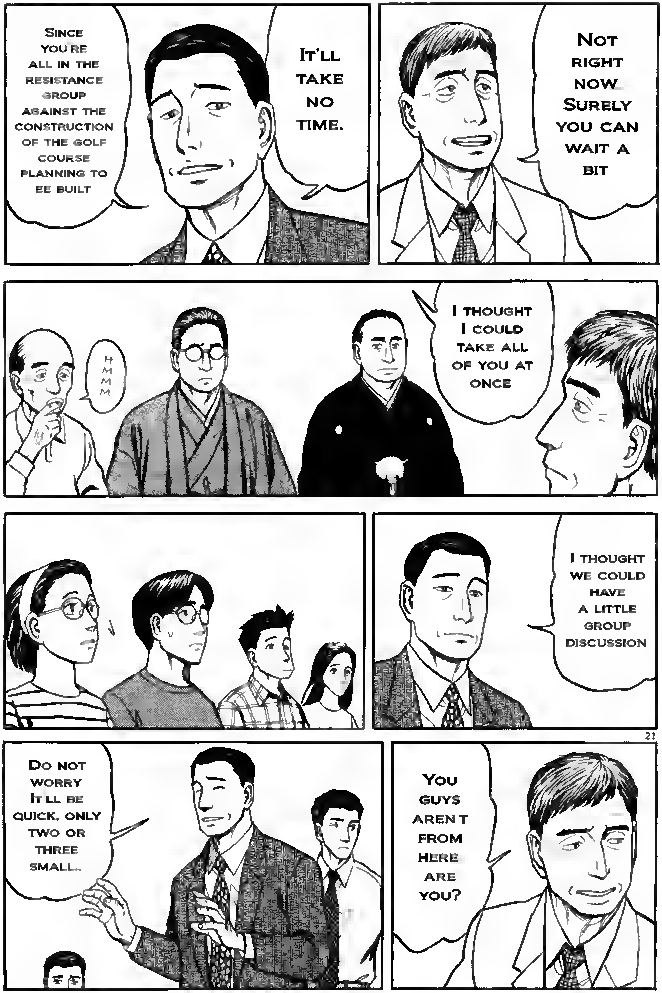

EXCUSE ME— MINAMI-MARU-SAN
YES?

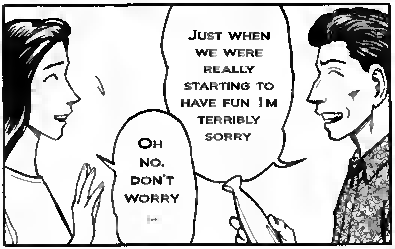
!
Sorry that we're interfering when you're having such a nice time but perhaps you can help us a bit?

.....
!?

20.

I would like to ask two or three questions regarding the murder of Kuraishi Toshio.
Im Kane-mura. an investi-gator from the prefec-ture police head-quarters


Since you're all in the resistance group against the construction of the golf course planning to ee built
It'll take no time.
Not right now Surely you can wait a bit
Hmmm
I thought I could take all of you at once
I thought we could have a little group discussion
21
Do not worry It'll be quick. Only two or three small..
You guys aren't from here are you?


Just when we were really starting to have fun Im terribly sorry
Oh no, don't worry

The atmosphere was completely destroyed

Oh! Yes, that would be good!
Yes please!

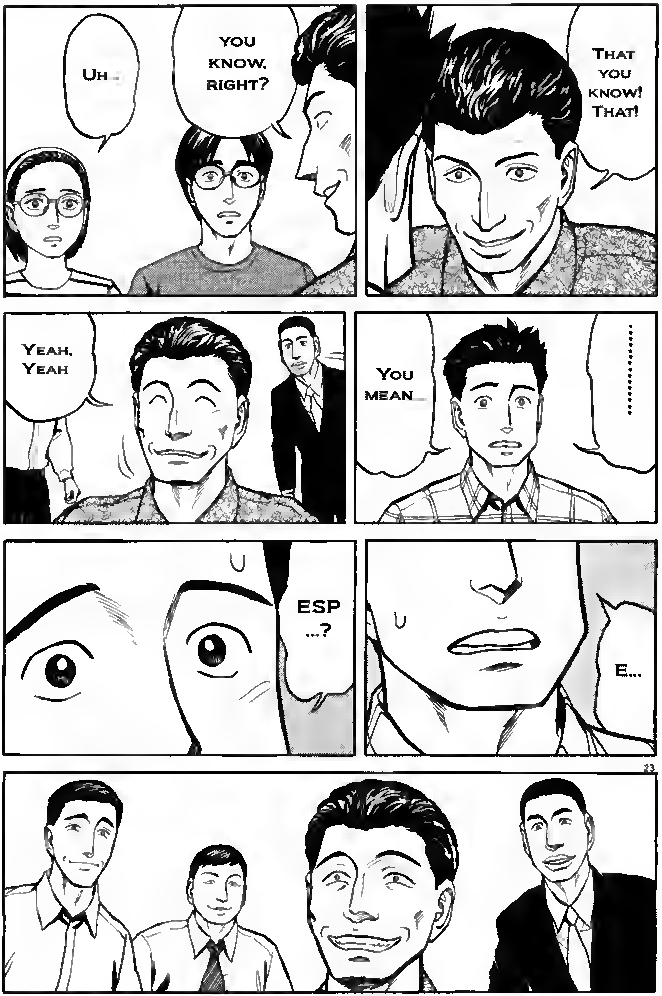
Eh?

Would you be able to do a something that could liven things up a bit Minami-maru-san?

22

Oh come oh... Don't be silly

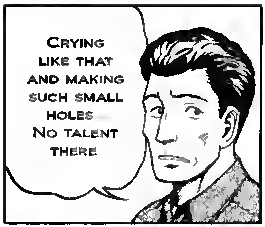
I can't really do anything
But what should I do

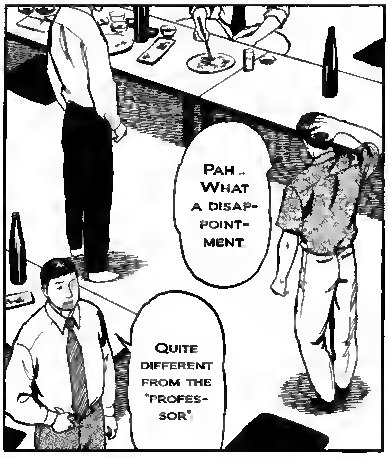

UH...
YOU KNOW, RIGHT?
THAT YOU KNOW! THAT!
YEAH, YEAH
YOU MEAN...
.....
ESP ...?
E...

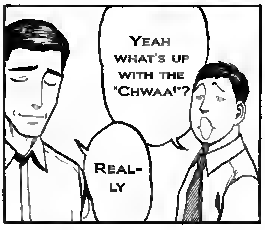
He's inherited the ability!
Yes, he really is a direct descendant!
Ya-hoo!
Oh...
Are they serious...?
Do you have something to write with?
Well, I can certainly try
Haha... Really?
Come on! Do it on this!
Something to write with...
Huh?
What?

……?
……
NUUUUUUUUUUH!
OOOOOOOOOOOH!
CHWA-
AAA--
AAH!
25
!!
……

There it is
ちゃぷ
Phew
Oh
Ohhh, fantastic!
Amazing, ESP!
Wow ...
Yeah thanks for everything then
We hope you have a good night

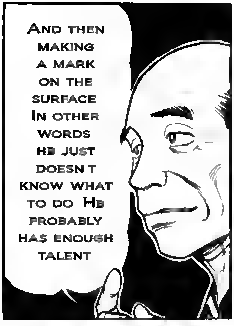

Crying like that and making such small holes... No talent there

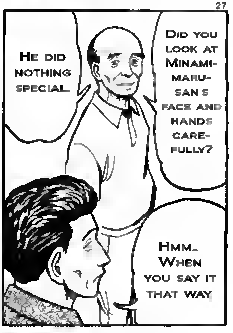

Pah... What a disappointment
Quite different from the "professor"

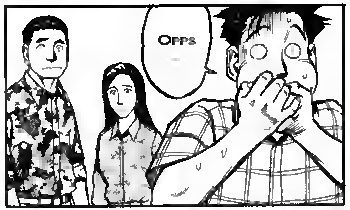

Yeah what's up with the "Chwaa!"?
Really

What?
...his ESP's true nature.
Hehe-hehe... Perhaps you didn't see...

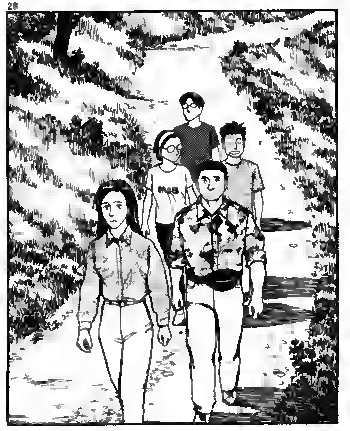
Ah, but then...
Hmm Making even a small mark was good

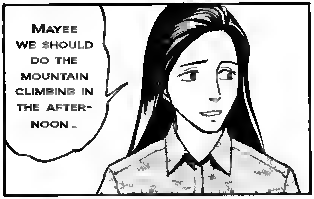

And then making a mark on the surface In other words he just doesn't know what to do He probably has enough talent


He did nothing special.
Did you look at Minami-maru-san's face and hands carefully?
Hmm... When you say it that way

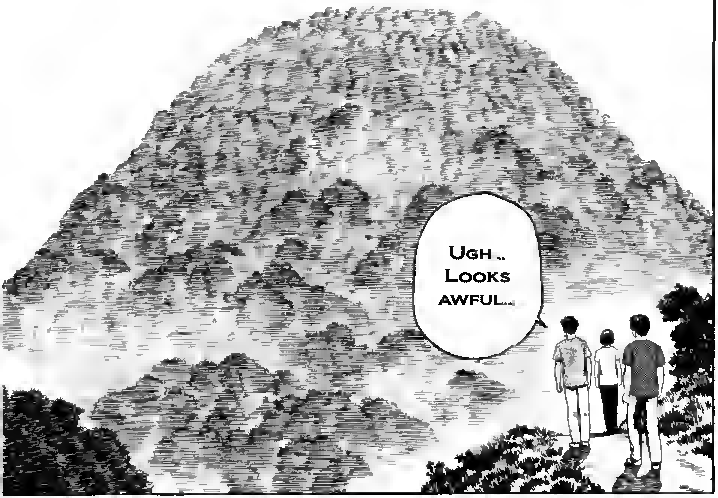


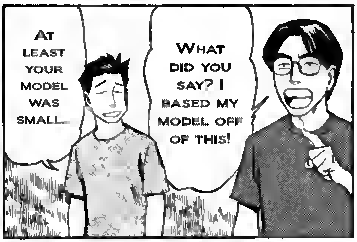
28





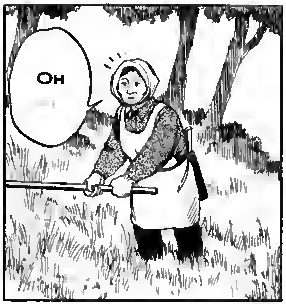
*A BIT LESS THAN A QUARTER MILE

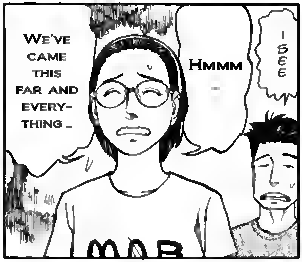

Ugh.. Looks awful...


At least your model was small...
What did you say? I based my model off of this!

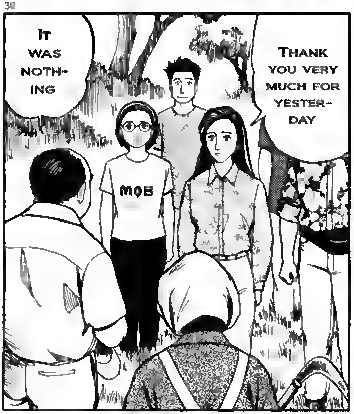
We're almost at the top
Phuu... Phew...

EXCUSE ME... BUT...


OH


WE'VE CAME THIS FAR AND EVERY-THING...
HMMM...
I SEE
MOB

ACCESS TO MOUNTAIN PROHIBITED BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING FESTIVAL...

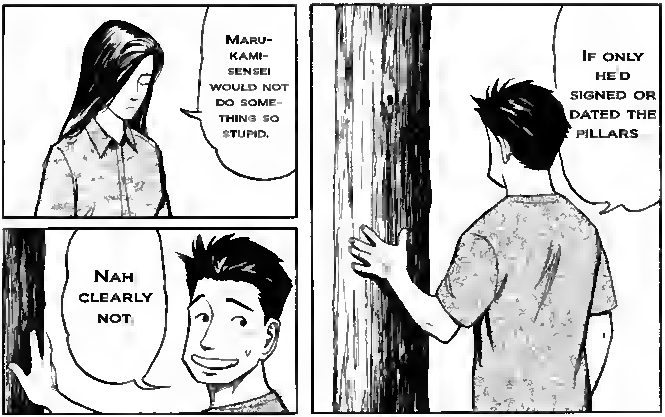

IT WAS NOTH-ING
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YESTER-DAY
MOB

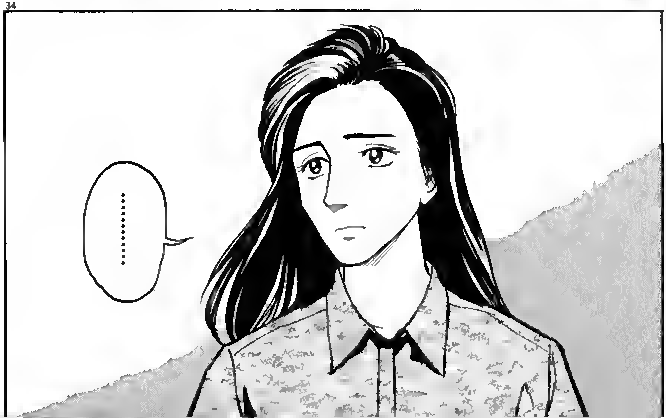
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

OH. YOU

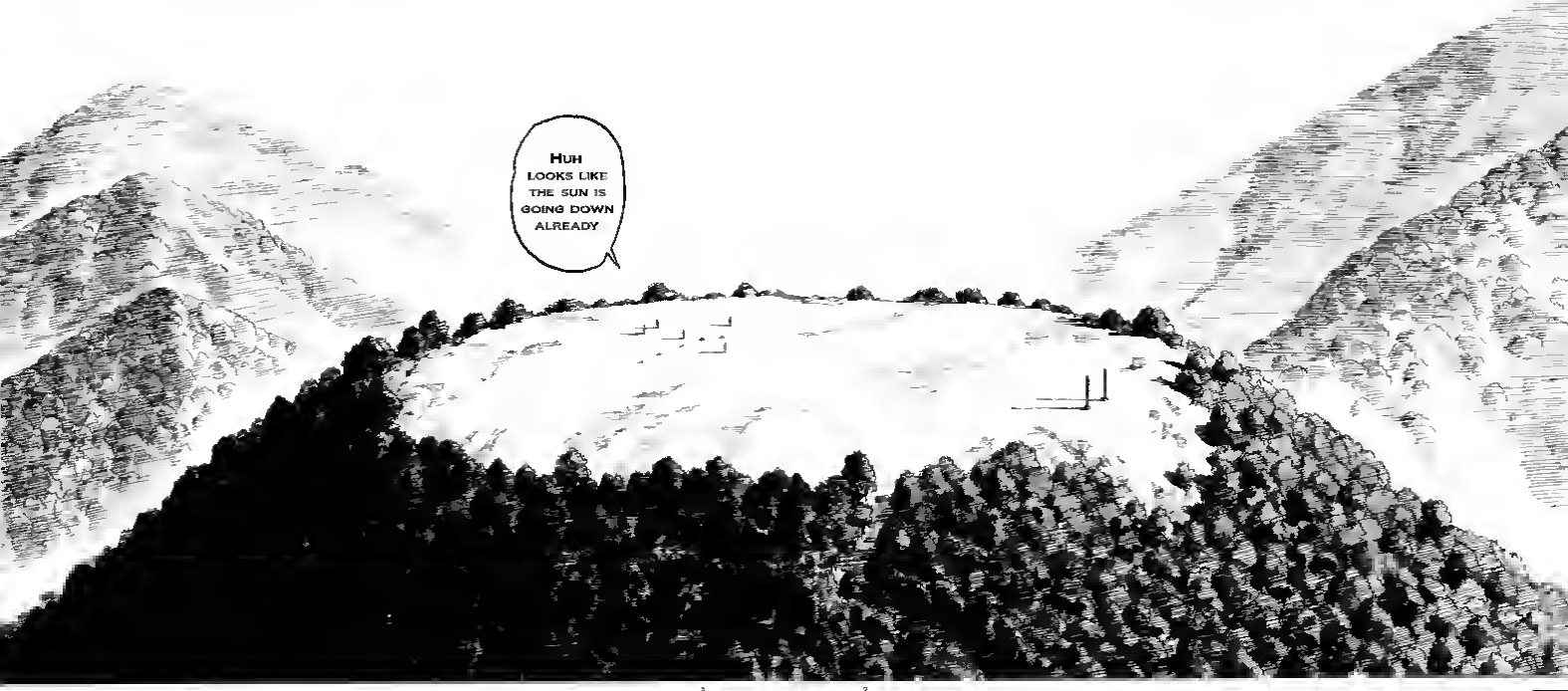
Is it possible to climb the mountain when the festival is over?
Well, yeah
Hmmm this is problematic
Mina-mi-maru-san..
Hey
So you can't even let me Minami-maru-san up?
So last month.. Maru-kami-sensei could have done it..
I understand. I suppose I can give you special permission, since the festival started. But do not stay up for tdo long.
Thank you, let's go on then
He's really thinking of it..
Hmm-m-
Urh I feel horrible.
Hahaha it was nothing.
Amazing Minami-maru-san

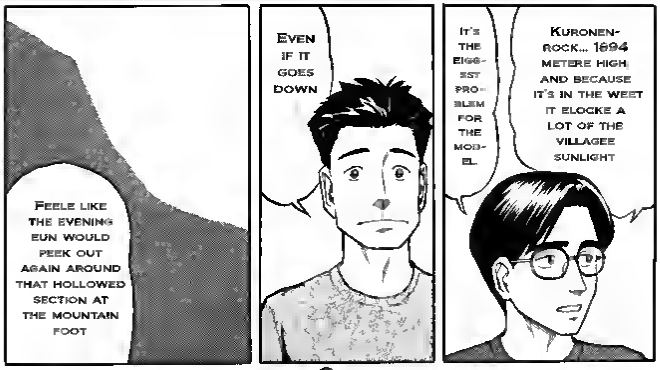
OHH... SO BIG.
32
OH WHAT ARE THESE PILLARS FOR?
BUT THERE'S NOTHING HERE. IT'S LIKE A SPORTS FIELD
MOB
33
THE STONES ARE LINED UP, BUT WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE ORDINARY STONES...
ONE, TWO, THREE... SEVEN STONES

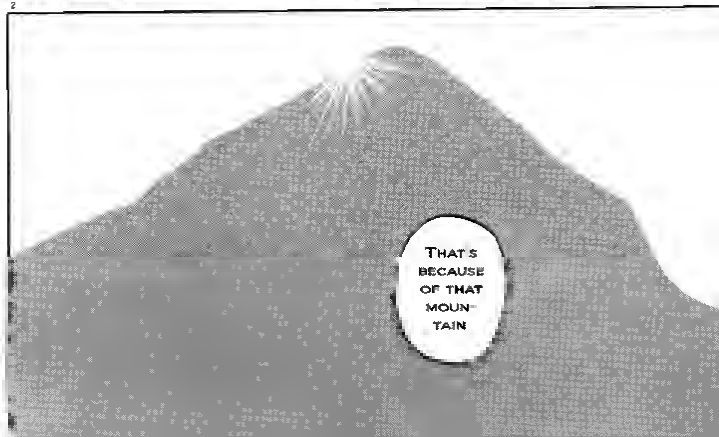

Maru-kami-sensei would not do some-thing so stupid.
Nah clearly not.
If only he'd signed or dated the pillars
Where can pro-fessor really be...
Seems certain to be no traces here either...

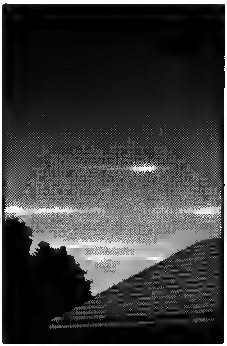

.....

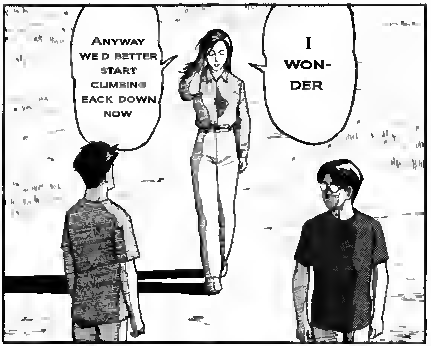
Chapter VII:
RESPONSE
Project Scanlations

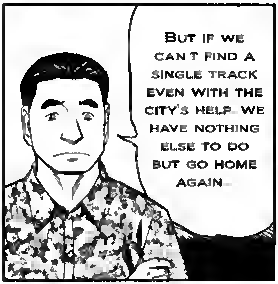

Huh
looks like the sun is going down already


Even if it goes down
Feele like the evening eun would peek out again around that hollowed section at the mountain foot
It's the eigg-est pro-blem for the mod-el.
Kuronen-rock... 1694 metere high and because it's in the weet it elocke a lot of the villagee sunlight


That's because of that moun-tain



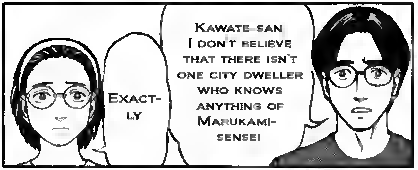

I WON-DER
ANYWAY WE'D BETTER START CLIMBING BACK DOWN NOW


BUT IF WE CAN'T FIND A SINGLE TRACK EVEN WITH THE CITY'S HELP, WE HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT GO HOME AGAIN...

GAAN I'M COM-PLETELY EXHAUS-TED

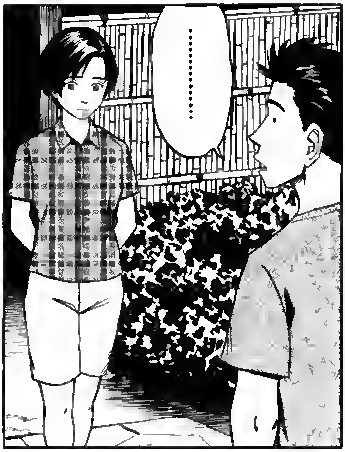
4

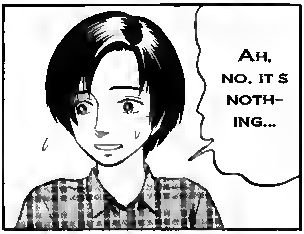
ピッ
ピーッ


KAWATE-SAN I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE ISN'T ONE CITY DWELLER WHO KNOWS ANYTHING OF MARUKAMI-SENSEI
EXACT-LY

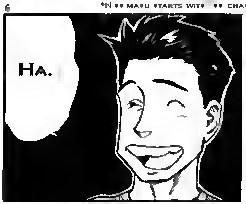
WELL, IS EVERYONE LYING...?

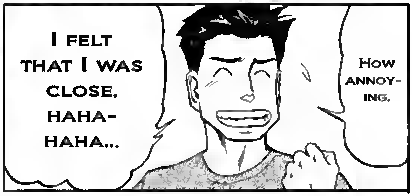
HMM?
GOOD EVEN-ING.
MINAMI-MARU-SAN
YOU LOOK WELL..
ガラガラ
FOR-GET IT... HAHA
BUT THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE SO LATE...
WHAT?
OH CAN IT BE THAT YOU CAME BECAUSE YOU FELT THAT "INTUITION" AS WELL?
WELL. ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE "WHOSE HANDS REACH" OR WHAT..?
N-NO..
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MARUKA-MI-SENSEI?





6 *In 東丸 Maru starts with 東 character for 東京 West. Higashimaru with 東 the sign for 東 East. 東京 the similarity

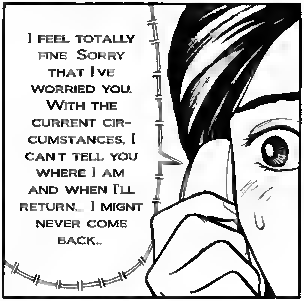




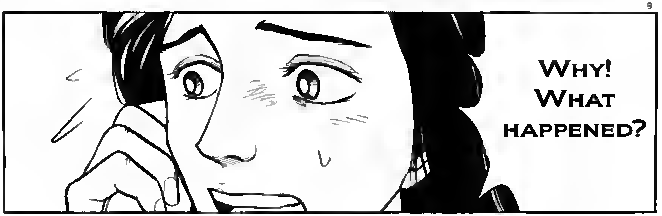
……
Are you going to come in?
Nah, I'll stay here.
Excuse me, Minamimaru-san. The people in town may have said some strange things, but don't worry too much. It's not that they are bad people, but..
How should I say we're very different.
Yes... I also noticed that, but... did you come here just to talk about it?
You seem like a normal person, Minami-maru-san, and because you actually have a normal life, I don't think anybody has the right to take away from you.
……

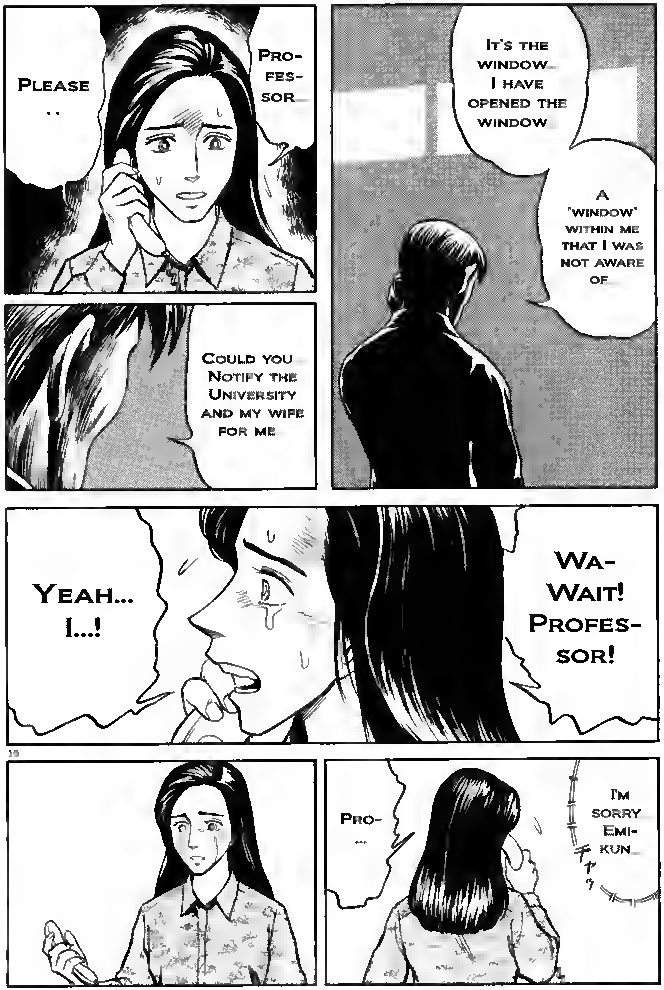
What...?
Well, um excuse me. Good night
I might be an "Esper" and "Little Master" but really
I guess I am very normal
What... for me? Sure. I got it...
Emi-kun...? It's me
Yeah? huh...

MARU-KAMI-SENSEI?
MA-...


I FEEL TOTALLY FINE. SORRY THAT I'VE WORRIED YOU. WITH THE CURRENT CIR-CUMSTANCES, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE I AM AND WHEN I'LL RETURN... I MIGHT NEVER COME BACK..

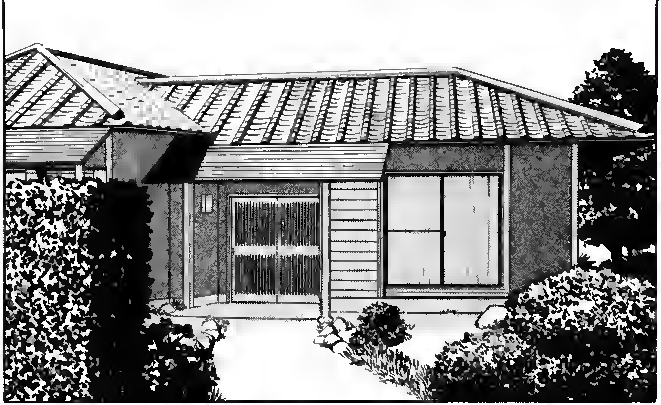
YEAH.. YEAH. BUT... YOU SOUND A LITTLE ..
WHERE ARE YOU NOW? ARE YOU OKAY?

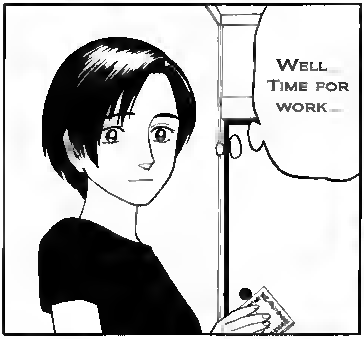

WHY! WHAT HAPPENED?


Please..
Pro-fes-sor
Could you Notify the University and my wife for me
It's the window I have opened the window
A 'window' within me that I was not aware of
Yeah... I...!
Wa-Wait! Profes-sor!
Pro-...
I'm sorry Emi-kun

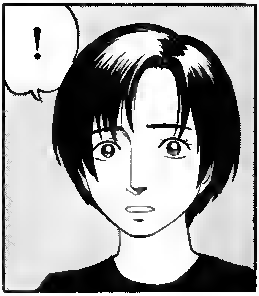
MOB
AND THE PEOPLE IN TOWN MUST KNOW SOME-THING
YES! LET'S LOOK!
HE'S AROUND HERE! HOW ELSE WOULD HE KNOW THAT THIS IS WHERE WE ARE!?
WHAT?
B
WE ARE GO-ING HOME.
.....

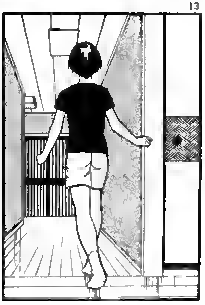
EVERY-THING S FINE MARUKAMI-SENSEI TOLD ME AT LEAST TNAT HE WAS UNSCATHED AND DOING WELL.
...WE HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO...
BUT...
.....
WE LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT...
I WON-DER WNAT IT S LIKE
IT S ALMOST TNE FEST-IVAL NERE IN TOWN
.....
12
HO-.. HOPE IT IS AN INTER-ESTING FEST-IVAL.
THAT S TRUE. SINCE WE RE HERE WE MAY WELL SEE THE FESTIVAL BEFORE WE GO HOME.



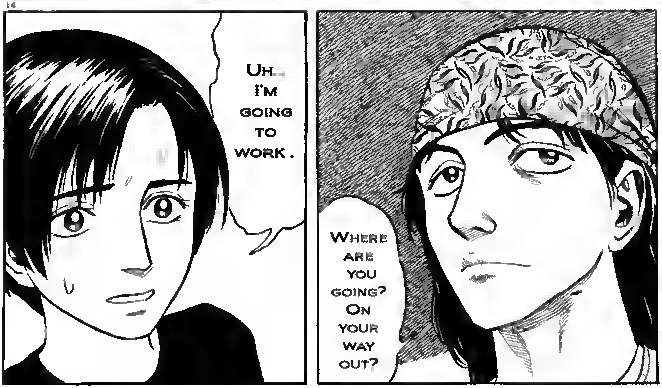


13





Well.
Ah... Big Brother ...

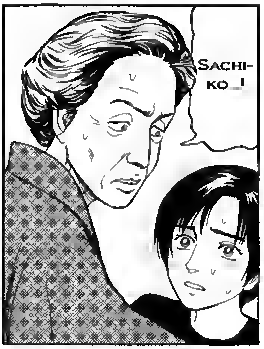

Uh... I'm going to work.
Where are you going? On your way out?

It s not like we re short of money
You talk like that after it s been so long since we ve met?
Ouch!
15
There e no reason for you to work outside
That s right do it for Sachiko
I screwed up a bit at work the other day and so .!

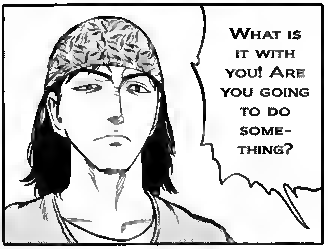
LET ME GO!
WAH
IF YOU NEED MONEY WE CAN GET HOWEVER MUCH WE WANT...!
.....
YOU WANT ME TO PUNISH YOU AGAIN?
!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE DOING...
WHAT NOW

ガチガチ
カクッ
17
PFFT
YOU!
TAKA-SHI!
TAKA-SHI!

I TOLD YOU TO NEVER COME BACK!
GET OUT!


SACHI-KO...!

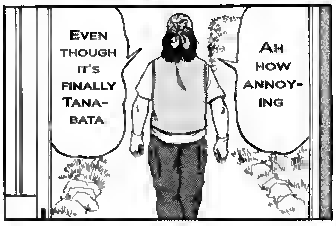
YES. JUST TRY!

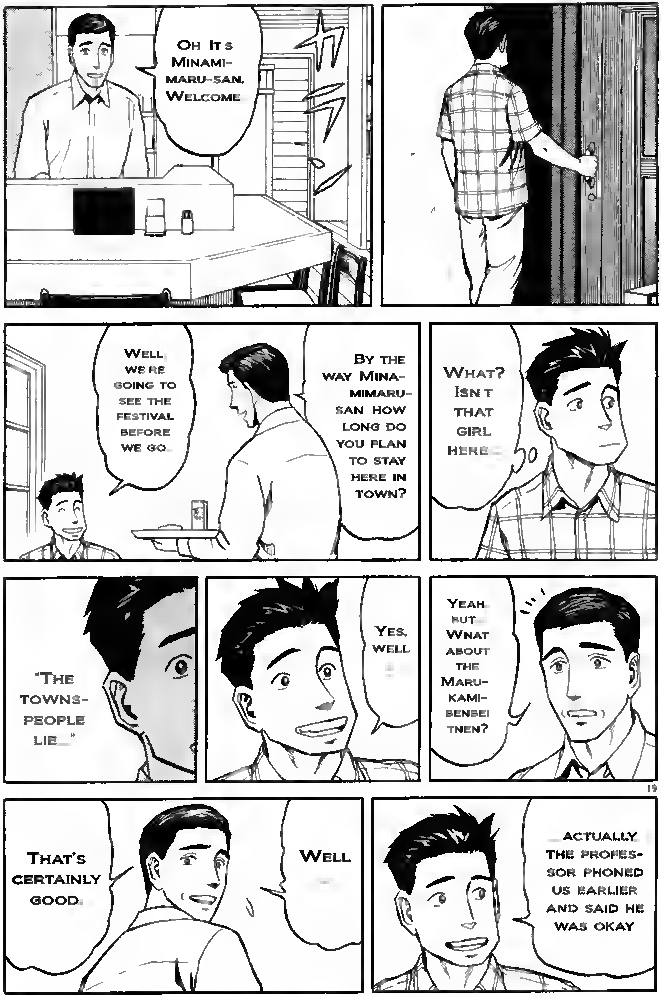

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU! ARE YOU GOING TO DO SOME-THING?

18

SACHI-KO... SACHI-KO...

HMPH!

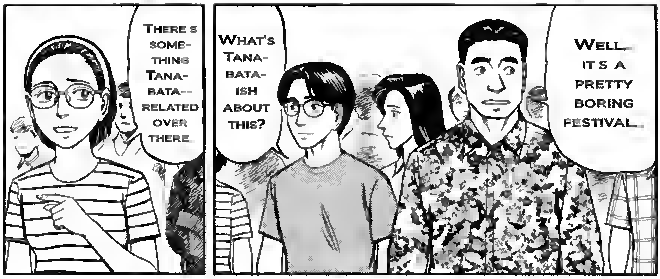

EVEN THOUGH IT'S FINALLY TANA-BATA
AH HOW ANNOY-ING


Oh It s Minami-maru-san. Welcome
Well we re going to see the festival before we go.
By the way Mina-mimaru-san how long do you plan to stay here in town?
What? Isn t that girl here
"The towns-people lie..."
Yes. well
Yeah. but Wnat about the Maru-kami-bensei tnen?
That's certainly good.
Well
...actually the profes-sor phoned us earlier and said he was okay

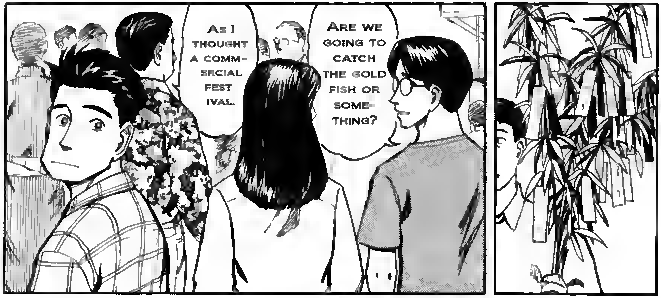
EXCUSE ME!
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO BE LATE
HEY!
EXCUSE ME FOR... BEING LATE
OH NO HARM DONE, BUT...
THERE'S ONE THING I REALLY WANT TO KNOW
YOU CAN TELL ME EVERYTHING.
WHAT IS THIS "ONE WHOSE HANDS REACH"?
WHAT!?
チャ!

So if you can explain only one of them...
We therefore have decided that we should go home after seeing the festival. There are still a few things we're curious about...
...
Well, this isn't the best place
There's a place called Kurohata temple near the shopping street. Meet me at the Torii* arches at eight.
*Arches found outside of Japanese temples
Certainly.!
Is that OK?

ガ ガ
売 たこ焼
お好み焼
ソース
お


THERE'S SOMETHING TANABATA-RELATED OVER THERE
WHAT'S TANABATA-ISH ABOUT THIS?
WELL... IT'S A PRETTY BORING FESTIVAL.

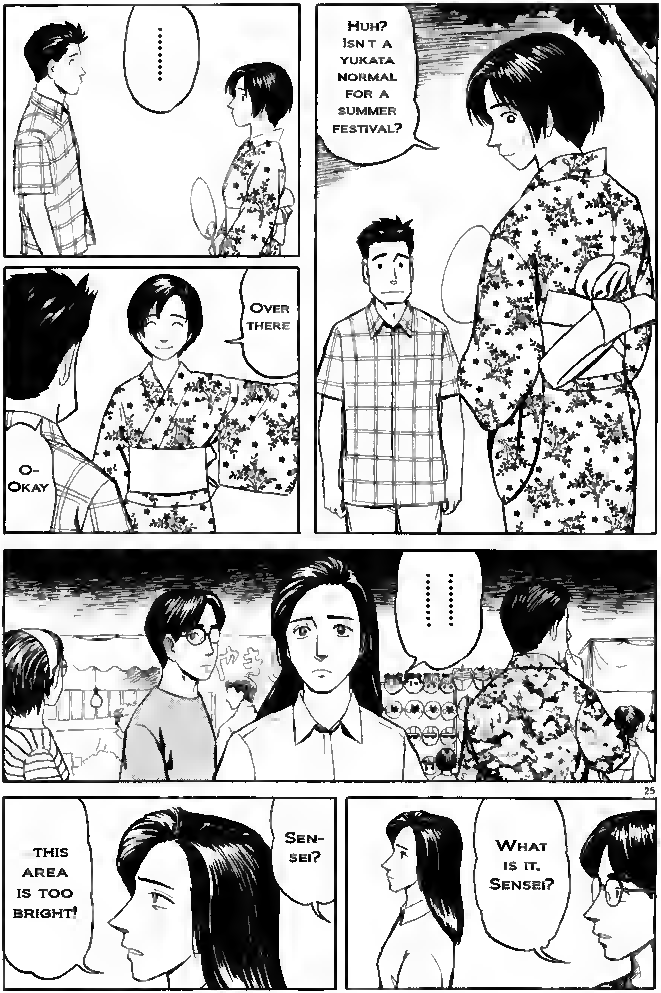
22


AS I THOUGHT A COMMERCIAL FESTIVAL.
ARE WE GOING TO CATCH THE GOLDFISH OR SOMETHING?

I HAVE TO MEET SOMEONE NOW...
HMM 7:50
EXCUSE ME WHAT TIME IS IT
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
WITH WHOM!?
WHAT?
WHAT IS IT WITH HIM
HEY WAI-
SEE YOU.
WELL. I'M GOING YOU CAN RETURN TO THE HOTEL WITHOUT ME
23
ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS MORE LIKE A BAKA-TONO-SAMA*
HE IS THE CITY'S "LORD" AND ALL.
IT'S NOT A DANGER

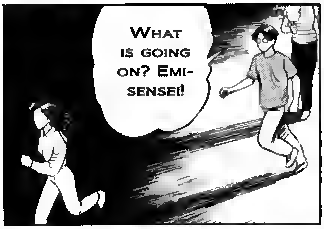
*IDIOT-MASTER-SAMA TYPE

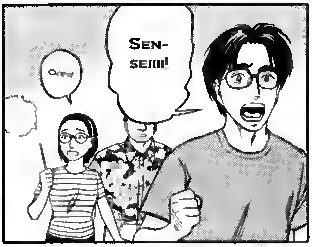
IT MUST BE HERE
HERE I AM MINAMI-MARU-SAN
W-WHAT IS IT?
OH!
GOOD EVEN-ING
IT'S JUST WEIRD SEEING YOU IN A YUKATA, I GUESS.

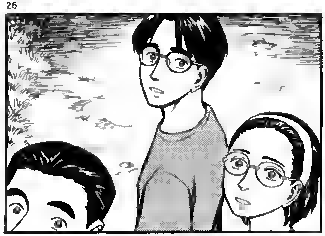

……
Huh? Isn't a yukata normal for a summer festival?
Over there
O-Okay
……
Sen-sei?
This area is too bright!
What is it, Sensei?

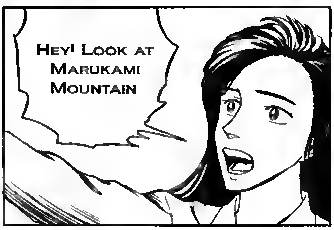
!?

HUFF
HUFF


WHAT IS GOING ON? EMI-SENSEI!

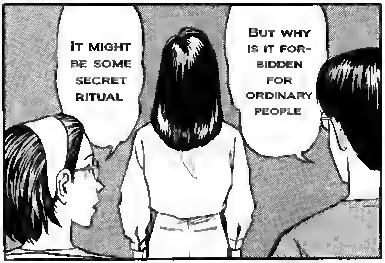

SEN-SEIII!
Omg!

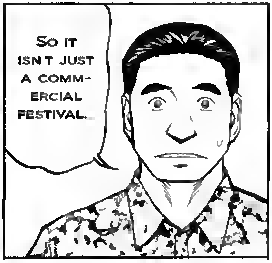



HEY! LOOK AT MARUKAMI MOUNTAIN

No. They're moving!
It's shining... Bonfires?

27


It might be some secret ritual
But why is it forbidden for ordinary people

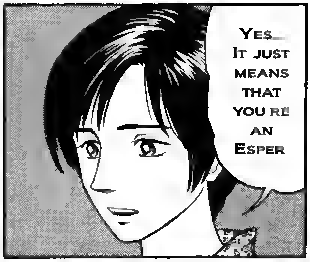

So it isn't just a commercial festival...

WELL ACCESS IS FORBIDDEN...
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'LL GO MYSELF! YOU CAN WAIT AT THE HOTEL.
WHAT? NOW?
I WANT TO SEE! I'LL CLIMB UP!
ME TOO!
ME TOO!
WHATEVER! I'LL GO TOO!
NOT EVERYONE CAN GO. SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AT THE HOTEL FOR WHEN NANMARU-KUN COMES BACK...

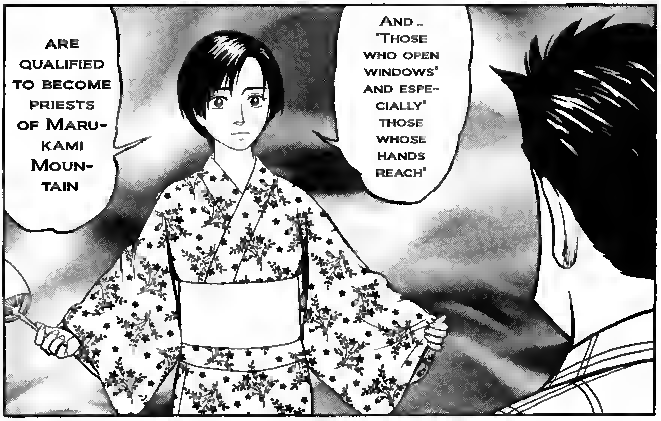
If it is hard to say "Minami-maru" you can call me Nan-maru.
Yes the fourth year now
Aren't you a university student Minami-maru-san?
Ha-ha-ha...
Well. I guess I'm Tomaru tnen?
29
You do have a graduate eventually
But it is hard to look for a job
Nah
Ah.
Uh... she is cute

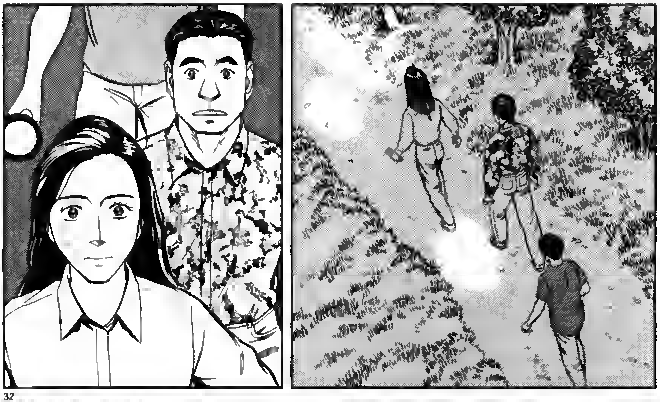
WELL. AT LEAST YOU HAVE A PART-TIME JOB.
I ACTUALLY HAD MADE MY DECISION AS HOPELESS AS IT SEEMS..
SEARCH FOR JOBS
HAD ACTUALLY FORGOTTEN
THAT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
TO THE PEOPLE IN TOWN ARE INTERESTED IN YOU MINAMI-MARU-SAN NANMARU-SAN IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE 'ONE WHOSE HANDS REACH'
.....
30
THE FIRST IS 'ONE WHOSE HANDS REACH.' THE OTHER 'ONE WHO OPENS WINDOWS"
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF TALENT.
OF THE LINEAGE OF A FAMILY THAT HAS LIVED HERE SINCE LONG AGO ONCE IN A WHILE A PERSON IS BORN WITH A TALENT

As far as I know there are only six people "whose hands reach" including you, Nanmaru-san.
There are countless "who open windows" here in town but...


Yes... It just means that you're an Esper.

In other words, those "whose hands reach"...
.....


And... "Those who open windows" and especially "those whose hands reach"
are qualified to become priests of Maru-kami Moun-tain



Tanabata no Kuni Volume 1 - End

七夕の国 1

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